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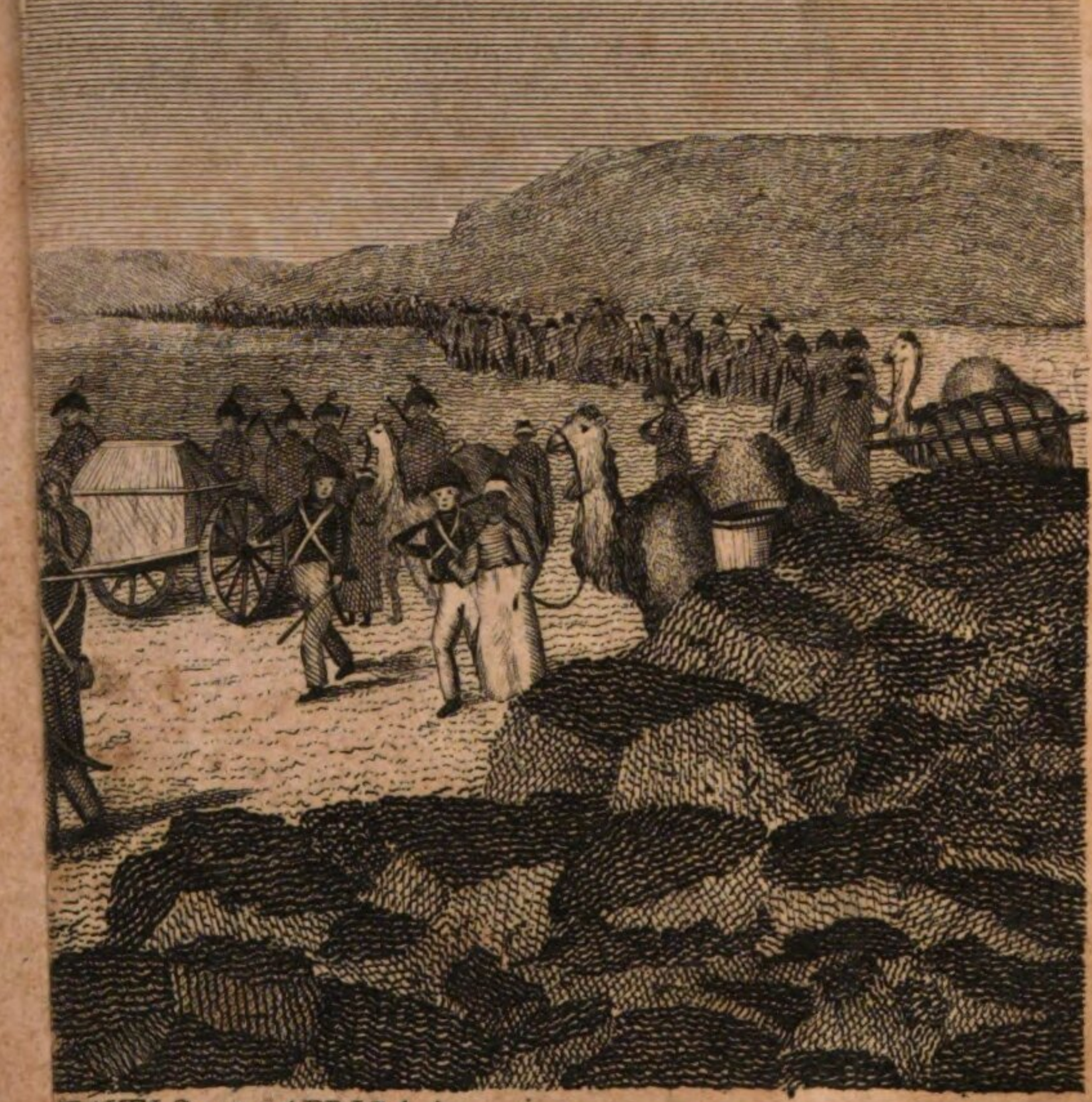

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From

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7th March 1823

To

THOS HOULDSWORTH, Esq. M.P.

SIR,

YOUR condescension in allowing this little volume to be published with the sanction of your Name, adds to the numerous obligations which your kindness has before conferred upon its Author. In presenting my Book to the Public, I am aware how little it can claim the attention of those, whose leisure and research have enabled them to peruse more detailed accounts of the countries which I have attempted to describe: but as I can most faithfully

attest the truth of all that I have related, I flatter myself with the hope, that many readers may be found, who will not deem my description unamusing, or uninstructive. The sentiments I have introduced are such, as I think would arise in any Christian mind, placed in similiar situations with myself; and the dangers and troubles I have escaped, must naturally lead to a pleasing contemplation of that Providence, whose goodness is so eminently displayed in all quarters of the globe — so far I think they may be useful.

With best wishes, Sir, for your Health and Happiness, and that you may long continue to enjoy the pleasure of

doing good, with those means, which by your Integrity and persevering Industry you have so deservedly attained: I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient

And very humble Servant,

Richard Renshaw.

Preface.

IT is now several years since the second edition of this little work was ushered into the world under the patronage of Thos. Worthington, Esq. and Subscribers, for near six hundred copies. I now venture to publish a third edition, in which I am encouraged by many much esteemed friends. This new edition will be found to contain not only most of the matter pnblished in the first and second edition, but from Eighty to One Hundred Pages of additional informatiou, both historical and sentimental. The new historical matter is principally selected from the travels of that interesting adventurer Ali Bey; and a pretty copious account will be found in addition to my former observations of the City of Alexandria, once the great Emporium of Egypt: with an Analysis of the Religion of Mahomet. The whole interspersed with moral reflections in prose and verse. To which is added the Natural History, with many entertaining Anecdotes of the Wild Beasts of those regions, particularly the Elephant, Rhinoceros, Camel, Lion, Tiger, &c. &c. These additions will, I hope, render the work of much more value, and amply compensate for the small increased price. And after requesting the candour of the Reader for inaccuracies and inelegancies, which I trust are but few, I leave my little work in his hands, hoping he may be amused and benefited by the perusal of it.

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SKETCH

OF THE

Early part of the AUTHOR's LIFE.

It is not common for Authors to say much about themselves, but to leave their Biography to Editors to publish with their posthumous works: but as I think it very possible that this little narration may fall into hands altogether unacquainted with my personal history, I will briefly state, that I am one of those persons, who according to the common phrase, have seen better days; not that I repine; far from it, I trust I am very thankful, for though my early prospects might be said to be flattering, and to forebode affluence, yet

X.

I have seen much worse days than the present. I was born in Manchester, of respectable parents, who brought me up with care and affection, and at an early age I was sent to the Grammar School at Wigan, where, and at other Seminary's, I acquired a tolerable share of useful learning. When about fourteen years old the tide of good fortune took a turn, and in consequence of my father's misfortunes, I was taken from school, and forced to part with many indulgencies, which in my more juvenile days I had been permitted to enjoy. After some time my father adventured in trade a second time, at Stockport, and I became an assistant; ill luck like an unwearied enemy, followed him with its concomitant evils, and which may be truly said to be not a few; and after a few years he had to suspend his concerns a second time. In this unfortunate affair my mother's property became involved, which deeply affected her, and after a painful pilgrimage, in which both her body and

mind participated, she exchanged this vale of tears, for "another and a better world."

"A world where sighs and tears are wiped away,
"And one unbounded goodness circles all."

The world was now before me, indeed I was cast upon it, and had to work my way through it; and up hill work it was at first—but he "who tempers the wind to the shorn Lamb," also tempered the world to me, and has brought me through it so far, if not with affluence, at least with comparative comfort. May I always retain a thankful heart for past mercies. Having entertained from my youth a high opinion of a military life, and being disappointed and chagrined with what I had so far seen of business, I resolved to go into the army, and try my fortune in foreign climes; this coming to the knowledge of my father, a commission in the Light Dragoons was sought for, and promised by a Gentleman of rank in the neighbourhood, who had raised a Volunteer Regiment, but a preference

being given to a near relation of the Colonel's, I was disappointed of this post of honour, and was determined to enlist in the Royal Artillery, the result of which the Reader will become well acquainted with, in his peregrination through these (I hope to him) interesting Voyages and Travels.

Voyages, Travels, &c.

THE eventful moment of our departure at length arrived! Scarcely had I time to bid adieu to my most intimate friends and acquaintance; an adieu which apprehension presaged might be eternal; when Authority with imperious and commanding voice issued his mandate for an immediate march and embarkation. With rapid step we reach the beach, and soon are wafted o'er the transparent stream to the ship appointed for our reception.

On the 28th. of February, 1796, we weighed anchor and sailed from Spithead, in the Crescent Frigate, in company with the Sceptre, of sixty-four guns, and a small fleet of transports, making all possible sail to the Westward.

"The Natives, while the ship departs the land,
Ashore with admiration gazing stand.
Majestically slow, before the breeze,
In silent pomp she marches o'er the seas.
Thus the warlike vessel moves in trim array,
Like some fair virgin on her bridal day:
Thus, like a swan, she cleaves the watery plain;
The pride and wonder of the British main."

On the first of March we entered the Bay of Biscay, where we suffered considerably from a heavy gale of wind, which falling off suddenly, (a circumstance not uncommon in those seas) left us in a situation much dreaded by seamen, to experience a heavy swell without wind. To a landsman just launched on the briny element, the violent motion of the ship is almost insupportable; and even experienced sailors seldom pass this Bay without suffering much from indisposition in consequence of it.

I may here remark, that the awful magnificence of the sea, and particularly to a stranger who has never before ventured upon its pellucid surface, calls forth ideas, at once sublime and impressive, and makes the creature feel his own littleness, and

dependance on the great Creator, who it may be truly said, worketh wonders in the deep. David, in his incomparable writings, frequently speaks of the the grandeur and greatness of the Ocean, and lauds the Almighty for his wonderous works therein. *Psalm* 104th. verse 24th to 27th, he breaks out in this rapturous language — O Lord, how manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. —So is the great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that Leviathan whom thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee, that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. — And again, *Psalm* 107th. verse 23rd to 30th, — He calls upon them who travel by sea to praise God for his manifold Providence.——They that go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep:—For he commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.—They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits end. — Then they cry

unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.—He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

The Book of Job is likewise very copious and poetical on this subject—Indeed to a contemplative mind the sea is a continual source of wonder, and with such a one, in addition to the language of Scripture, that of our great Bard (Thompson) will almost spontaneously occur—

" And thou, majestic main, a secret world,
" Of wonders in thyself, sound his stupendous praise!
" Who bids thee roar, or bids thy roarings fall!"

The first land we met was Madeira, (or Mattera, on account of its being covered almost with wood) an Island of the Atlantic Ocean, subject formerly to the Portuguese, but now in possession of the British. The climate is temperate, and the soil extremely fertile, producing grapes, which are remarkably large, and of a most delicious flavour. Tropical and European fruits of every description

are to be found there in profuse quantities, which grow wild in the mountains; such as nectarines, citrons, apricots, melons, plumbs, peaches, figs, strawberries, apples, oranges and lemons, remarkable for their size. The sugar cane is also cultivated here with success, though not in large quantities. Those flowers which are so much esteemed and admired in England, grow here spontaneously in the fields, and the hedges are beautifully interwoven with myrtles, jessamines, roses, and honey-suckles in perpetual bloom. Spring and Autumn reign here luxuriantly together, and produce fruit, &c. throughout the year. There is hardly any noxious or poisonous reptile to be found here; the lizard is the most common. Great numbers of canary birds and gold-finches are caught in the mountains; of the former, many are exported every year to England, and other parts of Europe. This Island is peculiarly celebrated for its excellent wine which keeps best in the warmest climate; for this reason, the inhabitants of the West Indies, that can afford it, chiefly drink it as their principal beverage. The connoisseurs in wine, are of opinion that, its flavour is much encreased after it has been a voyage to the East or West Indies! and this is generally the

case with those wines that are exported from hence to England. These wines differ much in flavour, colour, and strength. The exports of this article are considerable, and annually bring in a great sum to the customs. Madeira is extremely well watered—its limpid streams and crystaline springs refresh the eye and fertilize the plain. Here the weak and valetudinary resort for the recovery of their health, and in the course of a few weeks generally return to Europe much strengthened and improved. The inhabitants are represented as good-natured, temperate, and frugal; but extremely indolent. Funchal is the capital. Madeira is about 150 miles in circumference, and lies in 16 deg. W. Lon. and 33 deg. N. Lat. In this place it may be truly said,

The fruitful fields laugh with abundant produce,
And the four seasons woven into one,
And that one season a perpetual spring,
Gives life and cheerfulness to all around.
The noxious reptile finds no footing here:
But Birds of song and plumage various
Carol the live-long day and here, in search
Of health, the emaciated, care-worn
European seeks repose, and wards the sting of death.

The next land on our course from Madeira is the Canary Islands, subject to the Spaniards, seven in number, viz. Grand Canary, Palma, Ferro, Gomero, Tuertaventura, Lancerota, and Teneriff; and it is from hence the Canary birds originally came. Teneriff is the second in dignity, but the first in point of importance. Its form is triangular, extending itself into three capes. It abounds in wine, different sorts of fruit, cattle and game. One part of this island is surrounded by inaccessible mountains, and there is one in particular called the Peak of Teneriff, which in a clear day may be seen at the distance of 120 miles: it is calculated by judicious travellers to be 15396 feet in height above the level of the sea. The vertex which appears sharp and the exact resemblance to a cone, is flat for the extent of an acre of ground, in the centre of which is a dreadful volcano: though it frequently breaks out into flames, and smoke constantly issues from it, there has been no particular or serious irruption from this mountain since the year 1704, when the port of Garrachia was destroyed, and the harbour filled up by the lava. Wine is the staple article of foreign commerce, about 40,000 pipes being annually made here. Oxen and mules

are the only beasts of burden, horses being very scarce, the former are much employed in dragging casks to the beach, which is performed on pieces of timber. Of the feathered race, hawks and parrots, are natives of the island; as also swallows, sea-gulls, partridges, black-birds, &c. lizards are common here, and are caught in great numbers in the gardens, by placing tin or copper kettles in the ground. When these animals are in quest of food, they readily enter these receptacles in search, and from the smoothness of the sides are unable to get out; in which situation they are left to perish. Locusts and Dragon flies are likewise very numerous; the former commit dreadful ravages in the gardens, by devastating the herbage and eating up the verdure. The climate is considered to be remarkably salubrious, and particularly adapted to give relief in pulmonary complaints. Lat. of the Peak, 28. 18. N. Lon. 17. W.—It was in a most gallant attack on this island that the great and ever to be lamented hero, Admiral Lord Nelson, lost his right arm.—In the course of a few days we made St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verd Isles, which lies in 15 deg. N. L. The natives here were particularly solicitous to barter the commerce of their coun-

try, such as cocoa nuts, oranges, limes, coffee, hogs, poultry, &c. for the most trifling articles of British manufacture; but what they chiefly esteemed and desired was, old wearing apparel, (however thread-bare and soiled) knives, old razors, or any kind of Birmingham ware, with which many of the ship's crew made some very advantageous bargains. To me, who had been unaccustomed to the sight of men and women of a different colour, almost in a state of nudity, whose manners differed so materially from our own; this was a novel scene, and naturally led me to contemplate the result of a voyage, that would probably daily unfold to my view, in various parts of the world, the works of Divine Providence, whereof my conception was now but weak and imperfect. The animals here are cows, horses, asses, mules, deer, goats, hogs, civet cats, and some beautiful green monkies, with black faces, many of which are domesticated. Of the feathered tribe are cocks, hens, ducks, guinea-hens, both tame and wild; paroquets, parrots, pigeons, turtle doves, crab-catchers, curlews, and a great variety of others, valuable only for their plumage. They have also some cedar trees, and plenty of Indian corn, The land in general is very elevated; but

were it not for the continual rains in the time of the travadoes, which render it unpleasant and unwholesome to strangers, it would be one of the most delightful islands in the world, The principal towns are St. Jago and Praya, and here the East Indiamen, outward bound, furnish themselves with water and fresh provisions.

In crossing the Equinoctial Line, the heat was so intense, that we could scarcely bear to sleep between the decks, our situation being rendered more distressing in consequence of a perfect calm that kept us a mere log on the water for upwards of a week, during which period we were frequently visited by numbers of sharks. To seamen, who are so imprudent as to bathe in those seas where these voracious fish inhabit, the consequence is often fatal, for they never fail to attack the swimmer, who frequently falls a sacrifice to his own folly and indiscretion.—It is customary with mariners in crossing the Equator, to make preparations for the performance of a ceremony, in its nature as ridiculous as it is absurd, and which, in my opinion, reflects no little discredit on its institutors. The manner is as

follows: one of the seamen, (generally the champion of the crew) unknown to the passengers, secretly attires himself in a dress suitably for the purpose, representing the skin and scales of a fish, and assumes the character of Neptune; thus equipped, he is privately let down the ship's side into a boat appropriated for the occasion: he then hails and boards the vessel, and is immediately introduced to the Captain and officers, who out of respect to so *venerable* and *great* a personage, conduct him to an elevated part of the deck. The ship's company are then called up and individually interrogated as to their ever having crossed the line before. Those characters who have never experienced the darting rays of a vertical sun, are decreed by Neptune to undergo the painful operations of ducking and shaving, except those who have the ability to make the crew a handsome compliment, either in specie or spirits, which compromise exempts them from the fate which otherwise awaits them. Those unfortunates who are not in possession of these means, are left to their destiny. A large wooden vessel is then placed on deck, filled with water, and a small board laid across, whereon the victim is seated in a state of nudity. The operator then proceeds to

lather his face with a composition of grease, tar, &c. and with a razor made of an old rusty iron hoop shaves him, (notwithstanding his intreaties) whilst a man at each extremity of the tub is in waiting to pull the plank from under, by which means he is then precipitately immersed in the water, to the no small diversion and merriment of the spectators, which concludes the scene. During the time we were becalmed, we were most delightfully entertained with the soft and pleasing sounds of music, which issued from the bands playing on board the surrounding vessels. An universal stillness seemed to reign throughout, save the swelling notes of harmony, which, at intervals burst upon our attentive ears with their enchanting strains. The ships decorated with a thousand pendants, fancifully varigated with the most lively and glowing colours;—the boundless expanse of water around us, whose smooth and glossy surface, like a vast mirror, illumined with the brilliant rays of a vertical sun, presented such a *coup d'œil*, the grandeur of which, *description* can but feebly and imperfectly convey to the mind, when sensations in themselves so sublime are better conceived than expressed.

As we neared the Island of Ascension, a fleet hove in sight to the windward, which appeared to be of a superior force to our's. This, however, produced no sign of intimidation amongst us, and the Sceptre's signal was immediately made to reconnoitre. As our vessel was a fast sailer, in a short time we could plainly ascertain the number and strength of the fleet, which consisted of a seventy-four and two large frigates. We now made the convoy's signal, and cleared our decks for action, still bearing close to the wind till the line of battle ship came within hail, who, on our demanding what she was, hoisted Spanish colours: we still, however, conjectured them to be French, and prepared to give them a warm reception; but they proved to be Spanish, laden with dollars and gold dust, on their return to Spain, after an absence of three years. Unhappily for us, (as we then judged) war was not declared against that country, or there is little doubt but we could have taken them. To a contemplative character, the bustle and hurry observed on the decks in preparing for action, and then the sudden silence which ensues, when every man is ready at his post, in momentary expectation of a terrible encounter, is

an awful and impressive scene; and as language must fall short of an adequate description, conception can only pourtray it to the mind.—Ascension is a sterile and uninhabited Island, upwards of twenty miles in circumference. There are vast quantities of fish and sea fowl to be found here, as well as some goats, whose flesh is extremely good. The East India fleets often touch at this place to obtain turtle, which are large and plentiful. In our course we passed St. Helena, an Island in the Atlantic Ocean. W. Lon. 6. 30. 5 Lat. 16. It is a stupendous rock in the middle of the ocean, and at a distance has much the appearance of a castle, rising as it were out of the water. This Island is only accessible at the landing place, which is well defended by batteries of guns. The soil, which is about a foot thick, of a rich mould, covers the surface of the ground, and produces corn, grapes, and all fruits adapted to the climate. In the low grounds the verdure is exceedingly rich, which feeds great numbers of cattle and poultry. But the Island is much infested with a multitudc of rats, which eat up the major part of the corn almost as soon as it is sown, and burrow under the rock, so that it is impossible to extirpate them.

The principal part of the flour made use of here, is imported from England. The inhabitants, however, generally substitute yams and potatoes for bread. The vallies are beautifully watered with rivulets, and the mountains, in the centre, covered with wood. Peach trees are particularly fruitful, but other European fruit trees and vines, which have been planted here, do not succeed. Kitchen greens, however, thrive extremely well, but are much destroyed by the caterpillars, which are numerous. The principal part of the land is laid out in pastures, the fertility of which is very astonishing. Ring-pheasants, red-legged partridges, &c. and fish of various descriptions are found here in great plenty. The number of inhabitants does not exceed 2000, including soldiers and slaves. The East India Company are the proprietors of this island, which was given to them by King Charles the second, soon after it was taken from the Dutch, by Admiral Munday, in the year 1672. Since this work was *first* published, St. Helena has become celebrated throughout the world, as the place thought most proper by the Allied Sovreigns, after the Battle of Waterloo, for the confinement of Buonaparte; he has now been there near

five years, and probably does not like his residence much better at this day, than he did when he was first sent there. However he is out of the way of doing mischief, and is under the necessity of obeying, instead of being obeyed; a striking instance of the chance of war, and the instability of human greatness! The reader will find this man's conduct, whilst at the head of the French army in Egypt, pretty freely stated and commented on, as he gets further on in this narrative; and if what was stated to me was true, and I have no reason to dispute it, his conduct in more instances than one was such, as to call down upon him the condemnation of every honourable man in the world: May God change his heart, and convince him ere he dies, that it is better to be a poor honest man, and suffer many privations, than it is to be a tyrant, even seated on a throne, surrounded by slaves and parasites, or men of his own complexion, ready at his command, and for the sake of plunder and empire, to scourge the world with desolation and blood. I often think such men are let loose upon us as a punishment for our sins: and though this country has not been the seat of war, and I trust never may be, yet we have suffered and seen enough

to convince us, that there is a God in heaven, and that his arm is omnipotent! — We may safely and properly conclude the subject of Buonaparte's humiliation, with the words of Lord Nelson, after the battle of the Nile:—"O God, thy arm was here, and not to us but unto thee alone ascribe we all the praise."—We now parted company with the convoy and saw nothing more of them till we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope. The night before we brought to, the sea ran tremendously high, attended with torrents of rain and extreme darkness. It blew so hard as to oblige us to take in every stitch of canvas, excepting a storm stay sail, and if we had not fortunately hove the lead the ship must have been inevitably lost, as we had not the least suspicion we were so near the land. Finding, however, that we were in sixty fathoms water, we hauled our wind and lay to till day break, when we discovered ourselves to be only five leagues from Simon's Bay, where we came to anchor on the 30th of May, to the no small satisfaction of the crew, having been three months on the passage.

False and Table Bays are the usual anchoring places for shipping that touch at the Cape; one

washes the Isthmus to the South and the other to the North. The latter is the most secure. Table Bay, lies in lat. 33. deg. 55 min. South lon. 18 deg. 30 min. E. Simon's Bay in 34 deg. 9 min. S. lat. and 18. 32. min. E. lon. On the 31st. we disembarked at Simon's Town, and after refreshing ourselves, proceeded to an encampment called Muisenburg, where we halted that night, and next morning continued our route. The same day we arrived at Cape Town, having had to cross a lake on our march of nearly half a mile broad. During this march I suffered much from want of provisions. Passing down a pleasing valley surrounded with beautiful plantations, almost exhausted, I met a negro who was feasting as he journeyed; without many compliments I solicited him to grant me a part of his food, with which request he most generously complied. I then pursued my march much strengthened and refreshed.

In this instance I contemplate with gratitude and satisfaction the benign goodness of that Providence who watches over the fainting and weary traveller, and who in this moment of lassitude and pain, sheltered me under the fostering protection of his Al-

mighty wing.—Cape Town the capital, is adorned with many handsome buildings, the houses are flat roofed, (in consequence of the high winds which frequently prevail here) and are chiefly built of stone cemented with a viscous composition of earth, which serves as mortar, and afterwards is neatly plastered and white-washed with lime. The white appearance which the town exhibits, presents a clean and beautiful representation to the eye of the beholder from the Bay, particularly when the sun reflects upon it. The only landing place is at the east-end of the town, where there is a commodious wooden quay which runs a considerable distance into the sea, for the better accommodation of loading and unloading vessels: not far from this stands the castle, a strong and extensive building, having excellent barracks for troops. The works on this place are extremely well defended with a numerous artillery, which point in all directions; and for the additional strength of this place it is indebted (as well as other positions on this coast) to the skill and indefatigable labours of Colonel York, of the Royal Artillery. The batteries erected at the different posts round the Cape are very numerous, of which the principal are Craig's Tower, Yorke's

Redoubt, Charlotte, Chevonne, Hay-mow, Rocky-bay, Amsterdam, Groutmoley, Kick-in-the-pot, Elizabeth, Prince of Wales, and Antelope, the centre and old redoubts, &c. mounting in the whole nearly 350 pieces of cannon. The fortifications here are well calculated for defence, and while the British remained in possession of them, they were kept in good repair. Many block houses were erected in situations which secured the mountains from any attempts of the enemy from crossing them. The pass at the foot of Muisenburgh, a steep and high mountain washed by False Bay; and the only road between Simon's Bay and the Cape, is now considered as impregnable, though the Dutch were easily driven from it. It is supposed a few riflemen placed here might stop the progress of an army. In a word, Cape Town is at this time fortified with strength, regularity and judgment. The principal mountains are denominated the Table, the Devil's Hill, and Lion's Head, the last stretches northward in a long hill called the Lion's Rump, affording shelter to the ships against the westerly winds in Table Bay. The Lion's Head Mountain, according to an able engineer's calculation, is 2160 feet above the level of the sea, on the summit of

it there are several pieces of ordnance mounted for the purpose of making signals, and a person is continually on the look out for shipping. For every five sail that heave in sight, one gun is fired, by which the garrison is apprised of the approach of a fleet, and is thereby put on its guard, against surprise or sudden attack by an enemy. The Lion's Rump, which flanks the town is 999 feet high; The Devil's Hill, 3315 feet; also used for signals. On one side of the latter, there is a cave, wherein a deserter, from the garrison, concealed himself with a negro girl for some months, although the most diligent search was made for him during that period. It appears he was constantly supplied with food during his abode in this place by the girl, who descended into the town under cover of the night, and either by soliciting charity, or committing depredations, she procured for him the necessaries of life. One evening, however, this man having ventured too far from the place of his concealment, was observed by a centinel on duty at a redoubt, who immediately alarmed the guard, and thereby secured him. His unhappy paramour dreading the punishment which she supposed awaited her, in a fit of despair plunged a knife into her heart and instantly

expired! — The stupendous mass of naked rock, called Table-mountain, from its being nearly flat at the top, cannot fail to strike the most indifferent beholder of nature with admiration. The eastern side is quite perpendicular to the height of 3582 feet, as determined by Captain Bridges, of the Royal Engineers. The best and easiest ascent to the summit of this immense rock is on the side next to the town, through a deep chasm; the entrance to which is indescribably grand; I ventured in company with two others, to attain the prodigious height, although the undertaking was attended with considerable danger and excessive fatigue; for which, however, we were sufficiently compensated by the scene that presented itself from the surprising elevation. The edifices raised with so much labour and expense in the plain beneath, by human industry, were to appearance, dwindled into nothing; and the shrubberies, farms and inclosures, which a few hours before excited our observation, by their extent and beauty, were now reduced to the resemblance of a coloured map. It is said, the Table-mountain is frequented by vultures of that species called Perchnopteros; but the south-east wind often obliges them to quit it; for it blows

sometimes with such fury, that it throws them down into the streets at the Cape, where they are killed with sticks. When the sky is pure and serene, the Piquet-mountains, which are thirty leagues distant, may be seen from the top of the Table-mountain; notwithstanding this distance, they seem to surpass the latter in height. When people who, for the first time visit this mountain, are engaged in the hollow fissure, they think themselves attacked by a shower of rain; though the weather be fine it really rains to them. This proceeds from the particles of water, which, dropping continually from the rocks above, and falling upon those below, are broken by their fall, and converted into a kind of rain, which becomes the finer, the more we approach the foot of the mountain. This rain is always more abundant in the morning than at any other time of the day. The cause of this may be easily explained, by the coolness and dews of the night. In this hollow, at the distance of about one-third of its height from the top, there is a beautiful cascade where the water falls over a very broad rock. The inhabitants of the town sometimes walk as far as this fall; and though the way is extremely rugged, even the ladies indulge them-

selves with a sight of this charming and picturesque scene from a delightful point of view, which originates on this spot. The wind, which at times, is so extremely boisterous, is announced by a small white cloud, that first attaches itself to this hill, on the side next the Devil's-mountain. The air at this period becomes cooler, and the cloud increases and expands, till it becomes so large as to cover the top of the hill, thereby indicating the approach of an immediate hurricane. A celebrated French traveller states, that he has spent whole mornings in endeavouring to find out this phenomenon without being able to ascertain it. But afterwards, when he frequented False Bay, on the opposite side of the mountain, had the pleasure of seeing its commencement and progress. He says, the wind at first announces itself very feebly, carrying slowly a kind of fog along with it, which it seems to detach from the surface of the sea, This being accumulated, becomes condensed by the Table-hill towards the south, an obstacle which opposes it in its way; and in order to overcome it, gradually rolling over itself, runs by its efforts to the summit, and displays to the town that white cloud, which, announces, that the wind has already blown for several hours

in the harbour, and its environs, towards the face of the Table-hill. The ordinary duration of this storm, is three days, sometimes it continues without intermission, for a much longer space of time; often also it ceases suddenly. When this wind is particularly impetuous, from prudence, and to avoid the *fear* of accident, the shipping generally make for the open sea. A melancholy circumstance is recorded here of a Dutch vessel that was driven on shore early in the morning, during a thick mist, which prevented those on board from seeing their danger, till such time as she struck. On hearing the dismal cries of the distressed, the military were ordered down to the beach, as is usual in case of shipwreck, in order to prevent plunder, and if possible to aid the sufferers. At this moment the sea was so tremendously high, that no boat could live. Touched with the generous feeling of humanity, a native called *Voltemad*, unable to swim, fixed himself on horseback, and braving all danger, swam with his docile animal to the ship; and possessing that noble principle, which ought to dwell in the breast of every man in such circumstances, encouraged some of the crew to lay hold of a rope, which he had procured for that

purpose; and whilst several seized this, others grasped the tail of his horse, and in this manner he brought many in safety to the shore. Stimulated by the success of his first enterprize, he *six* times repeated his exertions, backwards and forwards, and thereby saved many lives. But on his seventh effort, neglecting to give his horse a little time to recover his strength, (impelled by the redoubled cries of those on board) in hastening once more to their relief; such was the anxious desire to be saved, that numbers crowded upon him at once, which rendered the animal unable to sustain the pressure; thus exhausted, he sunk with his humane and philanthropic rider, and the entire burthen was engulphed in the merciless deep. Peace! to thy soul! noble and intrepid *Voltemad!*—thou! generous son of compassion and humanity! thou! martyr to philanthropy—where is virtue to be found like thine? who, regardless of the dangers that threatened and awaited thee, durst thus, plunge thyself into the bosom of the angry deep; to rescue and snatch from death thy fellow-creatures! If aught be glory, this surely must; and dearly hast thou purchased it; but so long as virtuous actions are esteemed by virtuous men, thy memory

will live, and be cherished with a grateful remembrance in the heart of Sympathy, and Regret will ever lament and bedew thy name with the generons effusion of a spontaneous tear. A Column of fame ought to have been erected on this spot, to perpetuate so gallant an act; that future ages might admire, and imitate, and on which ev'ry circumstance attending this extraordinary instance of fellow feeling ought to have been inscribed. — Perhaps this very man too, was a Barbarian, and if he was, what an example for Christians! Another storm of a more violent nature, took place on the 5th November, 1799, about three o'clock in the afternoon, which I shall ever bear in remembrance; From the violence of the wind and the surge, the ships in the bay were driven from their anchorage, (notwithstanding every exertion) and some of them dashed to pieces on the shore. The Sceptre, of sixty-four guns, commanded by Captain Edwards, was the first that began to drive; she struck on a reef of rocks, about eight o'clock in the evening, and, being a very old ship, went to pieces in a short time. Her crew consisted of four hundred and twenty-three men, exclusive of officers and boys, and melancholy to relate, three hundred of them perished, together

with the Captain, his son, and most of the officers. A Danish seventy-four, and an American ship, with several other vessels, shared the same fate. As the night approached, many of the Dutch families in the town sent lanterns to the beach. The commanding Officer of Artillery was out the whole night, though it rained excessively, in order to render every assistance to the poor seamen, who escaped from the wreck. Notwithstanding our Northern Seas are subject to frightful tempests, they are not near so dreadful as the storms that are experienced here.—The Cape of Good Hope was first discovered by Bartholomew Diaz, a Portuguese, in the the year 1486, and named by him Cape of Tempests, from the storms he met with at this place. But the King of Portugal, elated with having found this way to India, commanded it to be named as at present. The greatest portion of the laborious work amongst natives. is done by the assistance of negro-slaves, who are sometimes exposed to sale *here*, in the same brutal manner as in the West Indies. A late elegant and accurate writer on this subject, says, and certainly with much justice, that "there is no part of the world where slavery is less necessary than at the Cape of Good Hope; nor would it ever have

found its way into this angle of Africa, had the same spirit of Batavian industry which raised a wealthy and populous republic out of the sea, impressed the minds of those who first formed the settlement. A temperate climate, a fertile soil, a mild and peaceful race of natives, were advantages few infant colonies have possessed; and as they still exist may one day yet be turned to account. To encourage the native Hottentots, to useful labour; by giving them an interest in the produce of that labour; to make them experience the comforts of civilized life; and to feel that they have a place and a value in society, which the miserable policy of the Dutch government denied to them, would be the sure means of diminishing, and, in time, of entirely removing the necessity of slavery."

"I would uot have a Slave to till my ground,
"To carry me, to fan me, while I sleep;
"And tremble when I wake, for all the wealth
"That sinews bought and sold, have ever earn'd."

The slaves are frequently sold here as high as two hundred dollars, and sometimes much more; notwithstanding some families keep from ten to

twenty of them. On Sundays' they are allowed some degree of liberty, which they use in indulging themselves in their amusements; such as, cock-fighting, and dancing!—By this we perceive the depravity of human nature in minds not illumined with the genial rays of morality and religion, and which, reflects as much discredit and disgrace on those masters (or rather proprietors) who thus neglect, to enlighten the minds of those beings who have been bred in ignorance and darkness, as it does on them, who in our own country, indulge themselves in similar practices, in defiance of the precepts of Christianity which they are *daily* taught.

Those slaves who prefer dancing, generally assemble on a small plain under the Table-mountain; and to the beating of an instrument which sounds like a muffled drum, they caper and jump with an astonishing degree of agility, sometimes linking their hands and forming a ring, and at other times intersecting the circle in movements, that appear very ridiculous to the discerning Europeon. The most active among them are Malays, who are honest and industrious, but excessively prone to sudden gusts of rage and acts of horrible revenge;

and although the penal laws of the country are extremely severe, it has been found impossible to correct their propensity to passion and caprice. The original inhabitants of the Cape are Hottentots, who notwithstanding they have long intermingled with Europeans, still retain their pristine manners. The men are well formed, straight, and in general stand from five feet five to five feet nine inches high, their hair is remarkably short and curly, more so considerably than the native of Guinea; their features forbidding, with flat noses, hollow cheeks and eyes, and very high cheek-bones, but in general have a good set of teeth; their complexion is of a light copper-colour; they speak with a disagreeable smacking of the lips, which renders their language exceedingly difficult for Europeons to comprehend. In their mode of cooking they are particularly filthy; for it is not uncommon to see them in their *Kraals* devouring the intestines of sheep not half cleaned and nearly raw. Their dress generally consists of a sheep skin thrown carelessly over their shoulders. The women are so strangely formed behind, that they can carry their children in the hollow of their back, with the greatest ease and safety.—During the time I remained at the Cape,

a regiment was raised; composed of Hottentots, and clothed in scarlet turned up with blue, of which they were wonderfully proud. We found them tractable enough in the excercise, in which they became exceedingly expert; but when put to the test as soldiers, they were cowards beyond description. As a proof of which, when called up to Saldanha-Bay, at the time the Dutch-fleet attempted to land troops to retake the settlement, (consisting of three sail of the line, one frigate, one store-ship, and three transports) the Hottentots were drawn up on the heights, with the rest of the troops dispatched from Cape-town for the purpose of defence: The Bay being so very low and the surrounding land so high, the guns of the fleet could not be brought to bear successfully on our troops, excepting the frigate, which ran close to the shore, and continued firing at intervals some hours. One of her shot accidentally struck a musket belonging to a Hottentot, which caused it to recoil on the others, so that the greatest part of a company were thrown down by the violence of the shock and the concussion of the air. The remaining part of the regiment seeing the sad disaster that had befallen their companions, (not one being hurt) and dreading a similar

catastrophe, most courageously took to their heels and fled with the greatest precipitation. The moment Admiral Elphinston received information of the exact situation of the enemy's fleet, he veered round with all possible haste, and came so unexpectedly upon them, that they were compelled to surrender at discretion. Although the Hottentots, acting thus in a body, shewed a manifest want of courage, yet it will not be denied that some of them possess a good share of individual bravery; though timid, they are harmless and honest; generous in affection towards each other, and susceptible of sincere love and strong friendship. A late French traveller gives the following relation of their fidelity and friendship.—"Scarcely," says he, "had my Hottentots been asleep an hour when a Buffalo, attracted by the light, approached closely to us; but as this animal is afraid of man, no sooner did he observe us, than he was seized with terror, and instantly fled. The noise which he made in retreating so precipitately through the bushes, and the crashing of the branches awakened us; upon which we all started up; and having searched around for the space of an hour, discharged our pieces at random, we returned to our fire. The third day was

more disastrous; the history I shall relate more at length, for it often occurs to my mind; and at present, as the fire of youth becomes cooler, it does not lead me into such enterprises, but has given place to calmer ideas; the remembrance of it still affects me and makes me shudder. Pursuing the traces of our animals without ever losing sight of them, we arrived at an extensively open part of the forest, in which there were only a few shrubs, with some underwood. Having stopped here, one of my Hottentots climbed into a tree to get a better view; and casting his eyes every where around, he made a sign to us to be silent, by putting his finger to his mouth, and signifying by his hand, which he opened and shut several times, what number of Elephants he perceived: When he descended, we held a council, and going to the leeward of them, that we might approach without being discovered, he conducted me through the bushes so near, that he brought me quite close to these enormous animals, I almost touched them, as I may say, and yet I did not observe them; though I can safely declare, that my eyes were not fascinated with fear. In such situations one must run great risks, and prepare for danger; I stood upon a small eminence just above

the Elephant: In vain did my Hottentot point it out with his finger, and twenty times repeat in an eager and impatient tone. "There it is!" I saw nothing of it, for I cast my eyes to a much greater distance; and never imagined that what I beheld below me could be any thing else than a rock, since the mass I saw was entirely motionless. At length, however, a slight movement attracted my attention, and the head and tusks of the animal, which eclipsed its enormous body, turned towards me. Without losing this opportunity, or wasting my time in useless contemplations, I rested my large fusee on its pivot, and taking aim at the middle of its forehead, discharged my piece, upon which it instantly dropped down dead; whilst about thirty more startled by the report fled on all sides. Nothing could be more amusing than to see the motion of their large ears, which flapped about in proportion to the swiftness with which they ran; but this was only a prelude to a much more animated scene. I was surveying them with great pleasure, when I fired at one of them as it passed close to us; by the excrements tinged with blood, which it dropt, I judged that it was dangerously wounded, and we began to pursue it; sometimes it fell, then got up, then

fell again; but we were close at its heels, and still made it rise by the shots we discharged at it: On the fourteenth shot, it turned with great fury upon the Hottentot who had fired; whilst another discharged a fifteenth, which only served to increase its rage, and as it advanced rapidly towards us, he called out to us to be on our guard; I was only twenty-five paces distant from it, loaded with my fusee, which weighed thirty pounds, besides ammunition; and I was more disadvantageously situated than my people, who, not having gone so far could more easily escape the avenging trunk, and extricate themselves from danger. I therefore betook myself to my heels; but the Elephant at every step gained upon me, so that more dead than alive, for only one at that moment ran up to defend me, I found no resource but to lie down close to the trunk of an old tree, which was extended on the ground: Scarcely had I reached my resting place, when the animal arrived, leaped over the trunk, and being much frightened with the noise of my people, whom he heard before him, he stopt short to listen: From the place where I lay I could have easily fired, as my fusee luckily was loaded; but the animal had already received so many shots with-

out effect, and it was in so unfavourable a position, that, despairing to kill it by any discharge, I remained motionless waiting for my fate. I however watched it, and resolved to sell my life at a dear rate should it attempt to return towards me. My people uneasy for their master, called to me from all quarters; but I was very cautious not to give them any answer. Convinced by my silence that they had lost their chief, they redoubled their cries, and were filled with the utmost despair. The Elephant frightened, immediately turned round, and a second time jumped over the tree, six paces below the place where I was, without perceiving me; upon which starting up, fired with impatience in my turn, and wishing to shew to my Hottentots some signs of life, I discharged my fusee in its posteriors. The animal then entirely disappeared, leaving every where as it passed certain traces of the cruel situation to which we had reduced it.—"The picture is not yet finished, gratitude and friendship demand the last touch. Worthy man who possessest a feeling heart, the moment is now come, when I must erect to thy memory that monument which I promised thee. Thou canst never comprehend with what pleasure I discharge this duty, may it confer some

honour on my travels, and even ornament the relation of them. It will never reach thee in the bosom of thy peaceful deserts; but thou wert sensible of my tears, and thy fraternal arms have pressed me to thy bosom. Whether thou art alive or numbered with the dead, I still feel it. The remembrance of me will be preserved longer and more gloriously among thy savage hordes, than by empty trophies, reared by the vanity of men.—I confess myself unworthy of it, and I renounce it. But do thou, generous *Klaas*, young pupil of nature, whose virtuous mind was never corrupted by our elegant institutions, preserve always the remembrance of thy friend. It is to thee alone, that he still addresses his tears, with feeling regret. When stretched out at the trunk of an old tree, at the mercy of a furious animal, which, with its wandering eye, was searching for me every where around; and which, if it had turned towards me, might have destroyed me on the spot; it was then that my heart, palpitating with terror, was open to the sensations of a tender sentiment inspired by one of those people, of whom polished nations never speak but with horror and contempt; whom without knowing, they consider as atrocious beings! the refuse of nature; in a word,

by an African Savage, a Hottentot! When I left the Cape, Mr. Boers gave me this man, as a person upon whose bravery and fidelity I might depend. He had expressly charged him never to abandon me, whether dead or alive; promising to reward him handsomely, if on my return to the Cape sound and safe, I should give a satisfactory testimony respecting his behaviour. It was this man that never quitted me for a moment; and who, having seen me suddenly disappear, hurried to my assistance, though he sought for me in vain: I heard him through the bushes, call me with a faint voice, which indicated his anxiety; and then address himself to my dejected and confounded companions, who followed at a little distance, and reproached them with timidity, when surrounded with danger "What will become of us," said he, in his own expressive and affecting language: "What will become of us, should we have the misfortune to find our unhappy master trod to death under the feet of the Elephant? Dare you ever return to the Cape without him? With what face will you appear before the Fiscal? whatever excuse you may make, you will be considered as base assassins: It is you indeed who have destroyed him. Return to the Camp; plunder and disperse his effects; do whatever you choose. As

for me, I shall never quit this place: dead or alive I must find my unfortunate master; I have resolved to perish along with him."—These words were uttered with sighs and lamentations so affecting, that even in the most critical moment I perceived the tears start from my eyes, and the tenderest sensations succeed to terror. My firing my fusee was a signal of joy; and I found myself in an instant surrounded by my people, and in the arms of my dear *Klaas*, who squeesed me so closely, that I could scarcely disengage my body from him. This faithful youth in turns kissed my person and clothes; whilst his companions, with the utmost sorrow, and in a suppliant attitude, stretched out their hands towards me as if to implore my pardon. I took care to console them, for I was too highly gratified by this scene to disturb it by useless words and reproaches. From that day, the happiest of my life, in which I knew the pleasure of being sincerely beloved, and from no motives of interest, I considered the worthy *Klaas* as my equal, my brother, and the confidant of all my pleasures, misfortunes and secrets: he has more than once calmed my disquietude, and revived my drooping courage; if he afterwards shewed me any signs of weakness, which were dangerous, and contrary to the good order I had established among

my people; this testimony of his attachment gave him so much power over me, that I could never allow myself to shew severity towards him, or even to alarm his heart."

There are few instances of affection and fidelity equal to this which can be found amongst Europeans, and it is one proof amongst many others, that we have no right to enslave such people, but rather to civilize and teach them the useful arts: and how abundantly more easy it would have been, to cultivate and introduce the Christian Religion amongst them, and what labour and pains would have been saved to our Missionaries, had we not formerly carried fire and sword amongst them, and traffick'd even in their very blood: However it is never too late to do well, and the very excellent example that this country gave the world in abolishing this abominable trade in Slaves, was highly to its credit, and will be a lasting gem, not only in our Monarch's crown, but also in the characters of all those men who aided this great design, both in and out of Parliament. It may not appear much out of course to remark, that the Slave Trade like all other avaricious projects, had a most baneful and

demoralizing effect on the human mind: From an acquaintance with some captains, as well as owners of slave ships, I am led to make these observations: Either, that I found them callous, cruel, and harden'd creatures; or else, if humane, intelligent men, that they universally condemned the trade, felt strong remorse of conscience for what they had done; and expressed their sorrow that they had been engaged in it, and was well satisfied that it was abolished. But it is true enough, and we see it daily, that the inordinate love of money viewed in all its ramifications, (the indispensible necessary in a reasonable degree) is the parent of endless crime, and this may be the reason why we find it so frequently and severely denounced in Scripture: and I am much mistaken if it be not the failing of many professors, indeed it is likely that it is so, from its sombre and sober character. I once heard of a man, whose general deportment was irreproachable, but too much keenness as a man of business was his beseting sin; fortunately for his soul's salvation, he knew it well, and frequently mourned as in dust and ashes for it: he was by trade a woolstapler, and the following anecdote was told of him—Looking at a parcel of wool at a farmer's house, he

pulled the fleeces in pieces, and threw out (as ordinary) a larger portion of it than the farmer thought he ought, exclaiming, That's a cot, and that's a cot. That's a cot, says the farmer, I'll tell thee what, take thee and turn thee inside out, and pull and teize thee, as thou dost that wool, and thou'l be a cot too. Perhaps the reader will think this too digressive, and not much connected with voyages and travels: however there is instruction in the tale, for this man was an eminent preacher in a dissenting society; and a dignified and good man he was in the aggregate. But it is to be feared that something of the cot-like nature would be found in many of us if we were turned inside out: and let us remember that, that great Being who searches the inmost recesses of the heart, and weighs all actions, will ere long exhibit us in our true colours, and bring to light the hidden works of darkness.

This race of people are peculiarly fond of beads, buttons, and other trinkets; and their desire for strong spirits and tobacco is so inordinate since their acquaintance with Europeans, that they readily part with even their cattle to obtain them. They seldom wear any shoes, what they do wear are made of undressed leather, with the hairy side outwards;

they are rendered soft and pliable, by being beat and moistened, and are very light and cool. Their habitations are, some of them of a circular, and some of an oblong form, resembling a round bee-hive, or a vault; the ground plan is from 18 to 20 feet in diameter. In the highest of them it is scarcely possible for a middle-sized man to stand upright. But neither the lowness of the hut, nor that of the door, which is barely three feet high, can be considered an incumbrance to an Hottentot, who finds no difficulty in stooping and crawling on all-fours. The fire-place is in the middle, and they sit or lie round it in a circle. The door is the only place that admits the light; and, at the same time, the only outlet that is left for the smoke. The Hottentot, inured to it from his infancy, sees it hover round him, without feeling the least inconvenience arising from it to his eyes; while rolled up like a hedge-hog, and wrapped snug in his skin, he lies at the bottom of his hut, quite at his ease in the midst of this cloud, excepting that he is now and then obliged to emerge from beneath his sheepskin, in order to stir the fire, or perhaps to light his pipe, or sometimes to turn the steak he is broiling over the faggots. The order of these huts, in a kraal,

or clan, is most frequently in the form of a circle, with the doors inward; by which means a kind of yard is formed, where the cattle are kept at night, the milk, as soon as it is taken from the cow, is put to other milk which is curdled, and is kept in a skin bag, the hairy side of which being considered the cleanest, is turned inwards, so that the milk is never drank while it is sweet. The eastern district of the colony, several hundred miles from Cape-town, is inhabited by a singular race of people called Caffrees, whose chief occupations are breeding cattle and attending to numerous flocks of sheep, in which consists their riches. These savages are quite black, but of a pleasing countenance. The men are very tall and well made; the women are comely and majestic in their deportment. A few of the Caffrees travelled the distance of near four hundred miles to see us, and pay their respects to the General, among whom was one of their chiefs or princes. Their caravan consisted of two tame bullocks and several sheep, which were so completely docile, as to follow them like dogs, and were carefully attended by their owners, who appeared extremely fond of those useful and peaceable animals. Indeed practical humanity appears to form a

prominent *trait* in the character of these people; their manners similar to those of the earliest nations in the world, and, except in point of exterior appearance in dress, we may compare them to the shepherds and shepherdesses of old, whose fascinating manners will live for ever in the works of Poets and Historians. The dress of the Caffrees is generally composed of Leopards or Tygers skins, loosely thrown over their shoulders; of which they prefer the former. Their passion for trifling ornaments (particularly beads) is still greater than that of the Hottentots; the women may be literally said to be covered with them; and a gilt button is prized by the men far more than the brightest jewel in the regalia of a monarch. Most of our people observing their visitors eyes sparkling at the sight of the precious objects (which might be bought at Birmingham for two-pence a dozen) cut off the buttons from their clothes and presented them to the prince; he received them with rapture, and distributed them equally between himself and his companions, who capered about delighted beyond expression. The Prince was distinguished by an ivory-ring round the upper part of his arm. This dignity is not hereditary among them, but must be

acquired by feats of courage and activity; a prince must have killed a Lion, a Bear, and a Bosjesman (as we say) Bushman. The Commanding Officer made the prince a present of a few shirts, and a firelock with ammunition, with which he was much pleased. The weapons in use among the Caffrees are darts or spears, about two yards long, which they throw with astonishing expertness and precision. I have seen the prince throw one of them, and pierce a mark at the distance of fifty yards; this he performed several times successively to our surprise and admiration. He shewed me several wounds that he had received from the wild beasts he had attacked, and with which this country abounds. His height, was, as near as I could guess, about six feet two inches, and he had a strong proportionate body, with limbs stout and well made.

How very few are our real wants, yet how many we make them. I cannot but admire the simplicity and apparent innocence of these people, though I do not approve their want of cleanliness: In disposition they are benevolent and humane—Pope says,

To the poor Indian whose untutor'd mind,
Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind;

His soul proud science never taught to stray,
Far as the solar walk, or milky way:
Yet simple nature to his hope has given,
Behind the cloud top't hill a humbler heaven;
Some safer world in depth of woods embraced,
Some happier Island in the watery waste;
Where Slaves once more, their native land behold,
No Fiends torment? no Christians thirst for gold!

Sad reflection on us who have the dispensation of Jesus Christ to enlighten us, and yet permit avarice to blind our eyes.

Those people called Bushmen, who inhabit the mountains in the interior part of the country N. E. of Cape-town, are averse to the pastoral life. Some of their maxims are to live by hunting and plunder, and never to keep any animal alive for the space of one night. On this account they themselves are pursued, and sometimes extirminated like wild beasts, or taken and made slaves of. Bushes and clefts in rocks serve them by turns for dwellings. Many of them are entirely naked, but some of them cover their body with the skin of any kind of animal, great or small, from the shoulder downwards as far as it will reach, wearing it till it falls from their backs in rags. Ignorant of agriculture, they are

obliged to wander over hills and dales, after certain wild roots, berries and plants, which they eat raw. Their table, however, is composed of several other dishes, among which are the larvæ of insects, (the Catterpillars from which Butterflies are produced) White Ants, Grasshoppers, Snails, and Spiders. Yet with all these changes of diet the Bushman is nevertheless frequently in want.—When captured as a slave, he exchanges his meagre fare for the luxury of buttermilk, frumenty, or hasty pudding, and sometimes becomes fat in a few weeks. This good living, however, is soon imbittered by the grumbling of his master and mistress, and he must frequently bear, perhaps a few curses or blows, for neglect and indolence. Disliking labour, and, from his corpulency, become less capable of bearing it, he now pines after his former uncontrouled and wandering life, which he generally endeavours to regain by escaping. Among the quadrupeds of this country are, Antelopes, which go in herds (some writers say) of 20 or 30,000 each; Buffaloes, Giraffes or Camelopardalises; the Gemesbock, Chamois, a species of Antelope, which has remarkably long and sharp horns, and when attacked by dogs, will sit on it's hind quarters, and defend itself.

Dogs, much larger than the Jackal, which also travel in herds, and are very destructive to flocks of sheep; Elks; Hyænas; the Roedo, an animal of a mouse-colour, rather larger than our deer, with three white stripes over the back, the male having very large twisted horns; the Quacha, a species of Zebra, but more tractable; the double horned Rhinoceros; and the Hippopotamus, or River-horse, is frequently seen here. Lions, Tygers, Panthers, Leopards, Bears, &c. are very numerous; as also Wolves, which infest the country, abundantly: they frequently visited the camp by night, and sometimes came close to our tents howling hideously as they passed; their pace is generally a high trot. A man who had been buried in front of the camp, was torn from his grave during the night, and devoured by a Wolf, as was generally supposed; however, I had the curiosity to examine the marks of the animal's feet next morning, which were plainly imprinted in the fresh earth, and I had little doubt from their size, that the voracious robber was a Tyger. An Officer of Dragoons, on his way from the Cape to False Bay, (a distance of about 26 miles) was attacked by one of these animals of an enormous size, on a common which he was

obliged to pass. He was fortunately on a good horse, at which the Tyger suddenly made a spring, and tore away part of the poor beast's flesh behind. This wound added wings to its natural fleetness, and he was able to escape with his rider to the camp of Muisenburgh, from whence some soldiers were instantly dispatched, well armed, to destroy the ferocious animal, which, however, made its escape. During my stay at the Cape, a Bear was taken in a snare, and presented to the Commander in Chief. In order to amuse the Officers, (it being the time of the races) the Bear was turned loose, when it was expected he would have afforded some diversion in the way of a hunt: but the brute when freed from his bonds, instead of attempting to get away, sat quietly on his guard against the dogs. The soldiers seeing the creature would afford them no diversion, were much disappointed, and with bayonets and sticks they soon put an end to his existence. The beasts of prey are so daring, that they have been known to invade the villages about the Cape, to the great annoyance of the inhabitants. It is recorded of a widow who resided on a remote plantation with her two sons, neither of whom were arrived at manhood:—One gloomy night she and her family were aroused by the noise

and bellowing of the cattle, which were in an inclosure not far distant; every one fled to arms, and hastened to the place from whence the noise proceeded: Arrived at the spot, they found a Lion, which having got over the fence, was making dreadful destruction amongst the cattle; no resource was left but to enter the inclosure, surround the ferocious animal, and kill him. None of her slaves had, however, sufficient courage to attempt this bold design; nor would her sons present themselves before the ferocious beast. In this dilemma the intrepid widow entered *alone*, armed with a fusee, and advancing to the Lion, which, on account of the darkness of the night, was scarcely visible, she discharged her piece, but unfortunately the animal being only wounded, darted upon her with the utmost fury and threw her down. On hearing the cries of their poor mother, the two boys hastened to her assistance, who fired with desperation at the horrid sight, while the formidable Lion was engaged with his prey, quickly dispatched him, and he fell, (though too late) on the mangled body of their mother. Besides several deep wonnds which she had received in her throat and different parts of her body, the Lion had torn off one of her

hands, above the wrist, and devoured it. Every possible relief was immediately given her, but she expired the same evening in the greatest agony, amidst the unavailing lamentations of her children and slaves assembled around her.

The Tyger of Africa, whose strength and courage are not inferior to the Lion's, is a very formidable enemy to encounter; for in the hunting of him the greatest circumspection and care are necessary. A late traveller gives the following relation:—"In the mean time the Tyger set up a dreadful howling; and I every moment imagined that I saw him springing forwards. The dogs, on the least motion which he made, retreated with precipitation and scampered away as fast as their legs could carry them. Some musquet shots, however, fired at random, at length determined the animal: he instantly started up; and this sudden apparition was a signal for every body to decamp! The stoutest of my party being overcome by terror, fled towards the rest, and abandoned me to my fate, I was, therefore, left with no other attendant than my Hottentot; and the Tyger, to gain another bush, passed at the distance of fifty paces,

which gave us an opportunity of saluting him in his passage with three discharges of our musquets, the bush in which he took shelter, was smaller, and neither so high nor so thick as that which he had just quitted. Some traces of blood which I observed, gave me reason to believe that I had wounded him; and the redoubled fury of the dogs convinced me that I was right in my conjecture. Part of my people then approached me, but the greater number had entirely disappeared. We harrassed the animal for above an hour more, and fired above forty shots into the bush, till at length being tired, and losing all patience at this sport, which produced nothing, I mounted my horse, and with great precaution went to the side opposite to the dogs, imagining that, while his attention was engaged in defending himself from them, I might easily surprise him behind. The event shewed that I was not deceived: I soon observed him squatted down and making use of his fore paws to defend himself from my little bitch, for she approached so near him, continually barking, as almost to be within his reach. When I had taken a proper aim, I discharged my carabine, which I instantly dropped, in order that I might lay hold of my double-

barrelled fusee, which I carried at the bow of my saddle. This precaution, however, was needless, and after I had fired, I saw nothing more of him. Though I was certain that I had hit him, it would have been highly imprudent to penetrate immediately into the thicket. Not hearing him, I supposed that he was dangerously wounded; and calling out to such of my brother sportsmen as were collected together, "My friends," said I, "let us all advance towards him, in a close line a-front; if he be still alive, and make his appearance, our pieces discharged at once, must destroy him. What risque can we run?" Upon hearing these words they all answered with one voice; but their answer was in the negative. In short, my proposal was not relished by any body: fired with indignation at their timidity, "Friend," said I to my Hottentot, who was no less animated than his master, "the animal must either be dead, or extremely ill. Get on horseback, approach in the same manner as I did, and endeavour to discover in what situation he is: leave me to guard the entrance, and, if he attempts to escape, I hope, I shall be able to dispatch him. We may complete the business without the assistance of these poltroons." He had no

sooner entered, than he called out to me, that he perceived the Tyger extended at its length, without any apparent motion; and that he believed him to be dead. That he might, however be sure of it, he fired one shot more; upon which I ran up, my whole body being agitated with exultation, while my courageous Hottentot shared in my transports. Joy having redoubled our strength, we dragged the animal to the open plain; and, when displayed to view, he appeared to be of an enormous size. I then began to take his dimensions with the utmost exactness: from the extremity of his tail to the top of his muzzle, he measured seven feet two inches; and in circumference two feet ten." The Baboons, or, as they are commonly called in Britain, Hairy Men, are very numerous, some of them growing to a monstrous size. These animals may be seen in tribes of several hundreds together on the Cape-Mountains, and it is worthy of remark, that one of the largest is frequently in front, to give the alarm to his brethren in case of danger. They are in the habit of visiting farm-yards, during the night, in search of food, and although the farmers are generally well provided with fire-arms and dogs, they seldom fail, from their wonderful sagacity and cau-

tion, to succeed in their enterprizes. The Bullocks here are commonly used in ploughing, drawing waggons, &c. and nearly resemble our's in every thing but the horns, which are very long. The Cape-Horses are small, but remarkably swift; the Sheep bear not the least resemblance to our's, either in shape or flavour; they have a sort of hair on their bodies instead of wool, and are spotted like dogs; their tails weigh from eight to twelve pounds each, and some more, consisting chiefly of solid fat.

In the Bay near the Cape, Whales are caught in great numbers; they are something smaller than those of Greenland, but produce more oil in proportion to their size. They are caught nearly in the same manner as in other seas. One of the Harpooners strikes the fish in the most vulnerable part, and if he be wounded mortally, he plunges immediately downwards, for which reason the line whereunto the harpoon or dart is attached, must be coiled so as to run out with ease, otherwise the boat would be upset; for such is the rapidity with which the rope runs over the side, that frequent instances have been known of the boat's taking fire.

Other vessels in reserve immediately row up to assist, and the ponderous fish is with difficulty towed towards the shore. The Colonists have houses close to the beach, for the purpose of extracting the oil. The fresh water at Cape-town is excellent both for culinary and domestic purposes; being so peculiarly soft as to require very little soap to wash the foulest linen. Fuel is very scarce here, there being nothing but wood, which the slaves fetch from forests ten or twelve miles up the country. They carry it with much fatigue across their shoulders, by means of a supple bamboo. About the latter end of May, 1799, a disturbance broke out between the Caffrees and the Dutch, in consequence of the Boors encroaching on the territory of the Caffrees, and seizing on their cattle without payment. The latter provoked at this treatment assembled in great bodies, and destroyed many of the depredators, with their habitations. In this emergency, the Boors applied to our Commander in Chief to send troops for their protection; which was complied with. The detachment was accompanied with as much artillery as could be spared, and for the greater expedition, a number of waggons were put in requisition which usually travel at the

rate of seven miles an hour, having four and sometimes six horses in each. The military encamped with the Dutch at Grafarnaate, and scouting parties were sent out during the night. An Officer of the 81st regiment of foot, with twenty-one privates and a drummer, unfortunately fell in with a large body of Caffrees, armed with poisoned darts, and overpowered by numbers, were every soul slain. We never could bring these savages to a general engagement; for when we formed in a body, they would disperse, and re-assemble on the adjacent hills, sometimes to the amount as was supposed of 18,000, where they made strange noises, and by their gestures seemed to set our little army at defiance. they surprised us several times, and took away our bullocks, which we generally recovered, by pursuing them very closely.

Finding their numbers daily increase, the Commander in Chief judged it expedient to join us with a strong reinforcement, and having surrounded them, they were compelled to surrender at discretion; after which an Officer of Artillery, and a few men were left at Algoa Bay. On the 27th of June, early in the evening, a water-spout burst over the

Table-mountain, and rolled such a body of water into the garrison, that the houses, at the entrance, were in a short time inundated, nearly five feet, and several slaves were drowned, who were passing with wood from the country: The streets near the Castle were overflowed; boats were immediately procured to pick up the inhabitants; a Dutchman and a private belonging to the Royal Artillery were drowned: Horses, pigs, and other animals floated in every direction, and the most dismal cries rendered the scene very affecting: The garrison drums beat to arms, and minute guns were fired from the castle until the violence of the water abated. Such a circumstance had never before happened in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The Dutch consider the year as divided into two seasons, which they denominate Monsoons; the wet Monsoon, or Winter; and the dry one, or Summer; the first begins with our Spring, the latter when our Summer ends. In the damp season, the Cape is much subject to fogs: and from the middle of the wet Monsoon, it rains almost continually till Summer: the weather is cold, raw, and unpleasant, but never more rigorous than our Autumn. Water never freezes to above the thickness of half a crown, and

as soon as the sun appears the ice is dissolved. The Cape is rarely visited by thunder and lightning, excepting a little, near the turn of the season.

On the 16th of February, 1801, a detachment selected from different corps, were ordered to prepare for a secret expedition. I made one of the number, and on the 17th we embarked in the Sea-Nymph Transport, and sailed on the 18th; but after being at sea four days, a signal was made by the Commander to return to Table Bay. It appearing that our vessel was too crank to lay close to the wind. We therefore took on board more ballast, and sailed again on the 30th in company with the Sheerness and Wilhelmina. Hitherto I had experienced very little of the unpleasantness of a seafaring life, but it now fell to my lot to witness the terrors of a most tempestuous sea. On the 8th of April, a violent storm came on, which, for the first time, filled me with fear and apprehension; our hatches were nailed down for several days and nights, whilst we were scudding before the wind, nearly under bare poles; and the decks below were so deep in water, that the men's chests and every thing else that was moveable were floating from one

end of the vessel to the other, breaking and knocking down whatever opposed their course. This scene was truly alarming, particularly at the approach of evening. On the 13th the gale providentially subsided; and on the 15th I caught a Bonetta, which weighed upwards of ten pounds. On the 16th a strange sail hove in sight, which proved to be a Portuguese ship from Batavia. On the 19th we fell in with the Nottingham Indiaman, from Bombay; she informed us that she had passed through a fleet of fourteen sail, with troops on board for the Red Sea, but had separated from them in the late storm.

On the 22d. we crossed the Tropic, about seven in the morning; and at ten the next day, we made the Island of Johanna, or Hinzuan, one of the Comora Islands, lying opposite to the coast of Zanguiabar, in Africa, governed by a colony of Arabs. The Mountains are lofty and beautifully adorned with wood, principally fruit trees; fine streams are numerous, and the grass and trees are green throughout the year. Rice, peas, yams, cocoa-nuts, oranges, lemons, citrons, pine-apples, cucumbers, sugar canes, tamarinds, and honey are produced here in abundance.

The animals are Goats, Tortoises, Camelions, and a kind of Buffaloes, having a large hump on their shoulders, which is said to be very delicious eating. The town where the King resides is at the east-side of the Island, and though it is nearly three quarters of a mile in length; it scarcely contains 200 houses, some of them are built with stone, and they generally have a portico to protect them from the violent rays of the sun. There is generally a large and lofty room in the better sort of houses for the accommodation and reception of guests, the other apartments being appropriated to the females. Their religion allows a plurality of wives, and likewise concubines. So extremely jealous are they of them, that they never permit any man to see the women, but female strangers are allowed admission into the Haram, and many English Ladies, whose curiosity has led them to visit there, make very favourable reports of their beauty and richness of dress, displayed in a variety of ornaments in gold, silver, and beads in form of necklaces, bracelets, ear-rings; they wear half a dozen, and sometimes more in each, through holes perforated along the outer rim of the ear. Though Johana is not the largest, it may be considered as the principal of the

Comora Islands; it claims sovereignty over, and exacts tribute from all the others. They have seemingly a regular government, and exercise the Mahometan religion, which was introduced by the Arabs, when they first settled here, after having driven the original inhabitants into the mountains, who still keep up a perpetual warfare with them. The natives are of a deep copper complexion, with neat features, and animated countenances. They consider a black streak under the eye as highly ornamental, and this they make every day with a kind of painting-brush dipped in that colour. They are very temperate and abstemious, wine and other intoxicating liquors being forbidden them by the law of Mahomet.

They are frequent in prayer attending their mosques three or four times a day, and they allow strangers to enter them, provided they take off their shoes, where they have an opportunity of observing the fervency of their devotion. In praying they prostrate themselves on the ground, frequently kissing it with a devotional fervency. In general they appear to be a civil and well-disposed people, and in their dealings very fair and honest, though there

are some inclined to theft, notwithstanding the punishment of it is very examplary, being amputation of both hands of the offender.—The inhabitants like those of most hot countries, are indolent and do not improve by their labour the richness of their exhuberant soil, but leave it to nature herself to bring forth the productions of the place, in which she is very bountiful and beneficent. Lat. 12. 14, S. Lon. 44. 48. E.

From the first to the seventh of May we had very rainy weather, attended with squalls. On the ninth we caught a very large shark, by means of a rope with a chain attached to the hook, which was baited with a large piece of pork. These voracious fish before they seize their prey always turn on their back, and in this manner dart on it with certain aim.

On the 10th. we crossed the Equinoctial Line; on the 15th. we saw Cape Orfue, and next day made Cape Guardafui. On the 17th. we perceived Mount Felix, and on the 18th. St. Peter's Mount, which is very high and apparently barren land. The 20th. we sailed past Bird, Burnt, or White

Island, which appears nothing more than a group of white rocks. Here we were becalmed four days and found it most uncomfortably warm. On the 25th. we hove in sight of Aden, and the same day entered the Bay. Immediately on our anchoring, the ship was surrounded by people from the town, chiefly Arabs, each seated on a singular kind of raft formed of three logs of wood, about the thickness of a man's thigh, lying close to the water edge. This raft, very common in India, is termed a Catamaran; on which the natives venture to sea, and manage it by means of a paddle, with great dexterity. When the sea is calm, and a moderate breeze blows, they can extend a sail, which in rough weather they keep bound round the body. The people who visited us were mostly fishermen, who had their lines and hooks arranged in good order round their turbans. They seemed very sociable, and sold us various kinds of fish. In the afternoon the Governor came on board with some attendants. His dress consisted of a white robe and a turban trimmed with gold. The Commanding Officer on board presented him with a sword and telescope, which he politely received, and appeared highly gratified with the trim of the vessel. Next

day I went on shore, and although I had not conceived any great idea of the beauty of the town, from it's appearance at a distance, I was much disappointed at finding it worse in every respect than I could have imagined, being the most wretched spot that can possibly be conceived. History informs us that this was formerly one of the richest sea-ports in Arabia Felix, and I may, without hesitation, venture to affirm it now, one of the poorest in the world. The inhabitants are chiefly Arabs, but the place is under the government of the Turks; for which reason spirituous liquors and wines, are not to be procured at any rate. I could only procure a little water, which was brackish and nearly warm, with a small calabash of honey, a few tamarinds, cocoa-nuts and eggs; for which I paid very extravagantly. Such is the heat of the climate here, that the sands literally burnt my feet, when I attempted to walk on them without shoes. Almost every person we meet with here is a beggar, and very importunate. In the evening I bathed, and afterwards prevailed on an old Arab by giving him money, to suffer me to mount his Catamaran, which I found I could manage with great ease. One of the natives made me a present of a hair fishing-line,

and described to me their method of angling, at which they are astonishingly expert. At the back of the town rise high mountains, on which I observed there had been fortifications. A brass gun, twenty feet long, and nine inches in the bore, still remained, together with a few stone shot. The dried appearance of the country made me wish to get on board, and after supplying the ship with wood and water, we sailed on the evening of the 20th. in hopes of making a favourable passage through the dangerous straits of Babelmandel. On the 26th. we passed St. Anthony, after having been obliged to anchor several times to stem the brisk currents and wind, which set against us from the Red Sea. Several attempts were made to warp the ship, but without effect. This operation is performed by carrying out an anchor by a boat to some distance a-head, and hauling upon it till the ship approaches the anchor, which is then weighed and carried further, thus, by much labour, it is possible to advance a little in calm weather against a current not so rapid, as that we had to encounter here. Whilst we were employed in this manner a number of birds called Boobies, were taken; they are about the size of a pigeon, and in my opinion are very

justly named; for they will sit quietly on the rigging till caught by the hand. On the second of June, we passed eight small islands denominated the Eight Brothers; and two days after we attempted to pass the straits of Babelmandel, (which signify the Gate of Affliction) having a fair brisk wind: night coming on, however, obliged us to stand off till morning, the passage being narrow, and full of shoals. To me it appeared scarcely a league wide. In the afternoon of the next day we got through with much difficulty, on account of the baffling winds and eddies: I observed that the land on the Abyssinian shore was low and even; and on the opposite coast, (a district of Arabia Felix) seemed little more than a chain of lofty mountains; at the foot of which, on the beach, I discovered some huts and a number of Pelicans. Lat. 12. 40. N. Lon. 44. 30. E. On the 6th. we dropped our anchor to prevent drifting, and the next day in the forenoon, we brought to at Mocha, the richest and most populous town of the Red Sea. Its appearance from the road-stead is very formidable, being surrounded by a wall and other fortifications. I spent a whole day on shore for the purpose of making what observations I could on the place and its inhabitants, who consist

chiefly of Arabs, Moors, Gentoos, and Turks: It is under the government of the latter, and therefore not very pleasant to Englishmen, who do not admire the Mahometan law, which makes it a crime to drink or sell either wine or spirits. By the help of a companion, however, I, after a long search, found out a coffee-house kept by a Gentoo, where we ordered dinner, and renewed our walk. The heat of this climate soon made us desirous of refreshment, which we almost despaired of finding, till a person we met by accident informed us, that in the suburbs lived a Jew, who sold a kind of cordial *under the rose.* With some difficulty we found out this kind Israelite, who received us with much civility, and supplied our wants, first placing a watch round the house to prevent surprise. Our host was a venerable old man, with a long white beard. The cottage was delightfully situated, in the midst of luxuriant trees and rich vegetation, but its interior was strongly marked with that enemy of all mankind, *poverty.* The poor children were as naked as Hottentots; the Jew took us into a small grotto, and during our stay, endeavoured to make us comfortable; but being ignorant of our language, he was unable to give us the intelligence

we wanted, respecting the manners and customs of the country. After sitting about an hour, we repaid his civility and departed, taking a bottle of his cordial with us. On returning to the coffee-house, we found our dinner ready, consisting of broiled fish, eggs, and a kind of bread from rice, whereon we regaled heartily; during our meal we were fanned with Ostrich-feathers, by people who frequent public places for that purpose. On calling for a bill, we were surprised to find that the whole came to no more than sevenpence halfpenny a piece! The streets of this town swarm with people of all ranks, of which the beggars are not the least numerous; the streets are regular, and some of the buildings are elegant and commodious. We endeavoured to get a peep into the mosques, but so jealous are the Turks of their temples being profaned by the feet and eyes of a Christian, that we were in danger of paying dearly for our curiosity. The trade of Mocha consists principally in coffee; and the inhabitants manufacture shawls, linen for turbans, &c. Their looms are very different from our's, and curiously constructed. I got a sight of the Governor's stables, which exceeded in order and cleanliness any thing of the kind I had ever seen. The horses were

Arabian, very beautiful and full blood. The Turks and Arabs are excellent horsemen, astonishingly expert in their military exercise and manœuvres, particularly in wheeling suddenly. They carry a spear and shield in the manner of the Moors, and are great adepts at attack and defence with the scimitar; we also saw a number of fine camels belonging to the governor. I was sorry I had not time to examine the fortifications, which appear'd to be in a tolerable state of repair. I could distinguish two block-houses, one to the north, and the other to the south, and a great number of guns mounted in the old style. Mocha is situated on a low ground, along the sea shore, affording commodious wharfs and good landing places; the water is good, and easily procured, and provisions are remarkably cheap.—The population is supposed to be about 10,000, besides a great number of Jews and Arminians, who inhabit the suburbs. The women, (except a small number of the common sort) never appear in the streets in the day time, but visit each other in the evening. Over their other dress they wear a large veil of painted calico, that they can see through without being seen. They have also little buskins of morocco leather. Some of the women of

rank are handsome, and not browner than the Spanish women. It is seated in a dry sandy country, abounding in Date Trees. Lat. 13. 19. N. Lon. 43. 23. East. The town is 500 miles south of Mecca, which is resorted to by Pilgrims, to offer up their devotions at the tomb of Mahomet, from the remotest parts of the Ottoman Empire. I could not help remarking here, what power religion has over the minds and establishments of mankind. The Christian has abundant reason to exult in that kind Providence which directs his steps to the temple of true godliness, while an impartial observer must acknowledge, the invaluable difference between the moral happiness (independently of the other more weighty considerations) of the followers of our mild and amiable doctrines, and those of infidel countries. Pardon, gentle reader, this digression (I feel for my religion, as for my country); I have divested my mind of all prejudice; I have read men and books, and have ever found reason to rejoice that I am an Englishmon and a Christian! When I behold Empires groaning beneath the iron rod of oppression; when I see ignoronce and superstition blighting the comforts of a benign climate, and destroying a fruitful soil — I am led to exclaim:

"Fanaticism, this is thy work!" My thoughts revert to my native land, and I bless it with reverence and ecstacy. On the 8th we lost one of our anchors, by the heavy swell of the roads, but with the assistance of two Arabs, from Mocha, who live by diving, we soon recovered it. These men have a machine, which they place over their nose, before they go down, and which keeps their nostrils close together. On diving, each of them took a cord, which they lashed round the anchor, so that we were able to haul it up, On the 12th we moored ship, expecting the wind to be unfavourable for some time; but on the 18th a light southerly breeze sprung up, and we held our course up the Red Sea. We were now grievously afflicted with a disorder of a singular nature; certain parts of our bodies being so completely excoriated, that we were scarcely able to walk across the deck. The only effectual remedy in these cases, is *lime-juice*, which we found very painful when applied to the sores. Our bread was now nearly exhausted, and as this was an article we could not procure in any great quantity at Mocha, we made use of rice in lieu of it, which proved but an indifferent substitute, particularly when eaten with salt pork. On the 20th.

the wind being favourable, I caught fifteen Dolphins, the least weighing seven or eight pounds, the largest nearly twenty. The manner in which I caught them, was by striking them with a barbed dart, from the sprit-sail-yard, where I was seated. I struck several that disengaged themselves from the dart, before I could secure them. They have not that delicious flavour when cooked, which some naturalists have ascribed to them, being in my opinion, but an unsavory fish. The Dolphin changes its colour every moment when dying, and exhibits to the eye every various tint of the rainbow. Their dying moments are grandly described in the words of the Poet :—

"From burnish'd scales they beam refulgent rays,
Till all the glowing ocean seems to blaze:
Soon to the sport of death the crew repair,
Dart the long lance, or spread the baited snare;
Unerring aim'd, the missile weapon flew,
And plunging struck the fated victim thro'.
Th' upturning poiuts his pond'rous bulk sustain,
On deck he struggles with convulsive pain;
But while his heart the fated jav'lin thrills,
And fleeting life escapes in sanguine rills,
What radiant changes strike the astonis'd sight,
What glowing hues of mingled shade and light;
Not equal beauties gild the lucid west,
With parting beams all o'er profusely drest.

Not lov'lier colours paint the vernal dawn,
When orient dews impearl th' enamel'd lawn;
Than from his sides in bright suffusion flow,
Than now with gold imperial seem to glow;
Now in pellucid sapphires meet the view,
And emulate the soft celestial hue;
Now beam a flaming crimson on the eye,
And now assume the purple's deeper dye:
But here description clouds each shining ray:—
What terms of art can nature's pow'rs display?"

On the 21st. we spoke a strange sail, bound for Mocha; on the 30th, sailed with a fair wind past some barren mountains. On the first of July it blew very fresh and carried away our fore-top-sail. On the 4th, we came opposite to some small low islands. Next day a beantiful hawk flew on board, which we caught. On the 7th. we passed Jidda, a sea-port of Mecca, in Arabia Felix. The country produces nothing as an object of trade, but Almonds; of these the British, who are peculiarly favoured here, ship about 4 or 500,000 weight every year to the East Indies. It is situated on a sandy soil, without much water, and they have to import all their provisions from Egypt, and the circumjacent places. Lat. 21. 16. N.—Its Bay is very dangerous, being rocky and full of shoals.

Even the pilots of the country are liable to mistakes, as the shoals sometimes change their situation, by the prevalence of certain winds. The *Forte*, a fine Frigate, captured from the French, was lost here not long since, although a pilot, well acquainted with the Bay, was on board. She struck on a shelf a-head, whilst she had seven fathoms-water a-baft. The heat of this latitude, for several days, was almost insupportable.

Not far from hence is the celebrated city of Mecca, (the birth place of the arch impostor *Mahomet*) seated on a sterile spot, environed by a number of small hills. It is principally supported by the thousands of Pilgrims who annually resort here to offer up their prayers at the shrine of Mahomet. The town is exceedingly well of for water, which renders it very convenient for those Pilgrims who are travelling to Medina, and yet there is but little garden stuff. They have, however, several kinds of fruit, as grapes, melons, &c. The heat is so very intense that the inhabitants generally sleep on the tops of their houses far the sake of coolnesss. Amongst the principal buildings, the most remarkable is the *Kaba*, or house of *God*,

held in high veneration by some of the people, even before the days of Mahomet, and said to have been Abraham's house of prayer. The Kaba is a kind of square tower, covered at the top with a piece of black silk stuff embroidered with gold. The arcades which surround the square are very splendid, and illuminated with a number of lamps and candlesticks, made of gold and silver. In the *Kaba* there is a curious memento, the famous black stone said to have been brought from heaven by the angel Gabriel! and which every Mussulman is obliged to kiss, or at least touch every time he goes round the *Kaba!* Here also is the well of Zemzen, said to have been that where Hagar quenched the thirst of Ishmael. It lies in lat. 21. 45. N. lon. 40. 55. E. — The Alcoran; or, Mahometan-Gospel, is universally allowed to be written with the utmost elegance and purity of language, in the dialect of the tribe of Koreish, the most noble and polite of all the Arabians; but with some mixture, though very rarely, of other dialects. It is confessedly the standard of the Arabic tongue, and, as the more orthodox believe, and are taught by the book itself, unequalled by any human pen, (though some sectaries are of another opinion) and therefore

maintained as a permanent miracle, greater than that of raising the dead, and alone sufficient to convince the world of its divine original, And to this miracle did Mahomet himself chiefly appeal for the confirmation of his mission, publicly challenging the most eloquent men in Arabia, (which was at that time stocked with thousands, whose sole study and ambition were to excel in elegance of style in their compositions) to produce even a single chapter that can be compared with it. To the pomp and harmony of expression, some ascribe all the force and effect of the Alcoran; which they consider as a sort of music, equally capable with other species of that art, to ravish and delight the ear. In this, Mahomet succeeded so well, and so strangely captivated the minds of his audience, that several of his opponents thought it the effect of witchcraft and enchantment. Others have attributed the effect of the Alcoran to the frequent mention of rewards and punishments; heaven and hell occurring almost in every page. The Koran is usually divided into thirty sections, named Ajza, which are subdivided into four parts. These divisions are for the use of the readers of the Koran, in the Royal Temples, or in the adjoining chapels where the Emperors

and great men are interred.—There are thirty of these readers belonging to every chapel, and each reads his section every day; so that the whole Koran is read over once a day. The great doctrine of the Koran is the unity of God; to restore which point, Mahomet pretended was the chief end of his mission. The more effectually to engage the people to hearken to him, great part of the Koran is employed in relating examples of dreadful punishments, formerly inflicted by God on those who rejected and abused his messenger: these ideas were taken from the Scriptures. The most excellent moral in the whole Alcoran, interpreters say, is that in the chapter of *Al-Alraf;* viz. "Shew mercy, do good to all, and dispute not with the ignorant;" or as others render it, "use indulgence, commend that which is just, and withdraw far from the ignorant." Mahomet, according to the Authors of the Heschaf, having begged of the angel Gabriel a more ample explication of this passage, received it in the following terms: "Seek him who turns thee out, give to him who takes from thee, pardon him who injures thee; for God will have you plant in your souls the roots of his chief perfections." It is easy to see that this commentary is copied from

the Gospel. In reality, the necessity of forgiving enemies, though frequently inculcated in the Alcoran, is of a far later date among the Mahometans than among the Christians: but it matters not so much who had it first, as who observes it best. This observance is beautifully exemplified in the following anecdote:—The Caliph Hassan, son of Hali, being at table, a slave unfortunately let fall a dish of meat, reeking hot, which scalded him severely. The slave fell on his knees, rehearsing these words of the Alcoran, "Paradise is for those who restrain their anger." I am not angry with thee, answered the Caliph. "And for those who forgive offences against them," continued the slave. "I forgive thee thine," replied the Caliph. "But above all, for those who return good for evil," adds the slave. "I set thee at liberty, rejoined the Caliph, and I give thee ten dinars."—In fine, the Alcoran is held in the highest esteem and reverance among the Mussulmen. They dare not so much as touch the Alcoran without being first washed, or legally purified; to prevent which, an inscription is put on the cover or label, "*Let none touch, but they who are clean.*" It is read with great care and respect; being never held below

the girdle. They swear by it; take omens from it on all weighty occasions; carry it with them to battle; write sentences of it on their banners; adorn it with gold and precious stones; and, knowingly, suffer it not to be in the possession of any of a different religion. Some say, that it is punishable even with death in a Christian, to touch it: others, that the veneration of the Mussulmen leads them to condemn the translating it into any other language as a profanation; but these seem to be aggravations. The Mahometans have taken care to have their Scripture translated into the Persian, the Javan, the Malayan, and other languages; though, out of respect to the original, these verses are generally, if not always interlined. — On the 10th. we passed the Island of St. John. On the 12th. the high land of Yambo appeared. We had now been fifteen weeks from the Cape, and were greatly in want of necessaries, our shoes were nearly all worn out, and wishing to preserve what remained for the difficult march we had to encounter, I endeavoured to walk the deck barefooted, like the sailors, but the sun blistered my feet to such a degree, that, as soon as the inflammation occasioned by it had ceased, I was glad to put on

my shoes again. At some distance from hence lies the city of Medina, the burial place of Mahomet. His tomb is not exposed to any one, save the forty Eunuchs, who always guard it, and light the lamps. It is situated between two other sepulchres, in which are deposited the ashes of the two first kings. The account of his coffin being suspended in the air by a loadstone, is a well known fiction, established to delude the ignorant and the superstitious. It is called the City of the Prophet, because he here found shelter in the protection of the inhabitants, after his flight from Mecca. And here he was first invested with monarchial dignity and power. He died in 637; but the Mahometan *epoch* begins 622, from the period of his flight, which by them is denominated Hegira. Medina is situated in a sandy valley, abounding with palm-trees. Lat. 24. 20. N. Lon. 39. 33. E. On the 15th. we hailed a Turkish boat, or patamar, by which we were informed that a fleet of considerable force was at anchor in Cosir-bay. On the 20th. we discovered the fleet from the fore-mast-head. In the evening of the next day, the wind died entirely away, and the current drifted us nearly ashore. We were now obliged to have recourse

to rowing in our boats, which were immediately hoisted out; and so apprehensive was the Captain of our danger, that he ordered guns to be fired, as signals of distress, but we were too far from Cosir to be heard. On the 22d. a fresh breeze sprung up, which, though against us, enabled us to keep a good offing. We were beating to windward till the 24th. when we were fortunate enough to make the wished-for port; where we anchored after a voyage of seventeen weeks.

It would be impossible for the ablest Geographer to present his readers with an adequate description of the various difficulties and dangers, attending the navigation of the Red Sea in large vessels. Day and night we were alarmed by the frequent appearances of shoals and rocks directly a-head; and although we had men in the chains to keep the lead going, we were frequently in danger of striking. The mind is thus kept in a continued state of alarm; every one looking out with anxious eyes, to ward off impending destruction. So strong, notwithstanding, is the force of habit, that I believe it possible, in a short time, to acquire a stoical contempt for even these terrors; for though assailed by

an accumulation of distressing circumstances, with the prospect of many hardships before us; though parching under the excruciating fervor of a vertical sun, and afflicted with every malady peculiar to such a climate, not the least murmuring was heard; —the laugh and the joke went merrily round— anticipation spread her hopes before our eyes, and we already enjoyed in idea the temperate and fertile plains of Egypt; we quaffed in imagination, the delicious produce of the luxurious vine, and feasted with rapture on the luscious sweets of oranges, melons, and pomegranates! Often, alas! after enjoying all these delicacies in *fancy*, have I been necessitated to swallow salt pork and rice, to satisfy the cravings of nature. Often too, when the mind has led me to the cool bowers of luxuriant Asia, I have been suddenly called to some irksome toil, in the face of the most devouring heat, which has seemed to draw from my inmost pores, the last remaining drops of moisture. Yet all this have we borne, and could have endured much more, for the honour and interest of our native land! Yes, Britain! thou wert never from my thoughts: I have dwelt with rapture on thy nipping frosts and cheerful fire-sides; thy fields waving with a golden

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harvest, and thy flocks and herds embellishing thy verdant plains. As every thing is good or bad by comparison, thy delights can never be fairly appreciated, till contrasted with other less luxuriant climes.

Home indeed is home to a weary traveller, toss'd about from pillar to post; sometimes scorched by a tropical sun, exhausted by marches o'er barren deserts; or toss'd about on the merciless ocean, wanting all the blessings and many of the necessaries of life. These things bring to my mind the Patriot's Elysium, as described by MONTGOMERY.

"There is a land, of ev'ry land the pride,
Belov'd by Heav'n o'er all the world beside:
Where brighter suns dispense serener light,
And milder moons emparadise the night;
A land of beauty, virtue, valour, truth,
Time-tutor'd age, and love exalted youth:
The wand'ring mariner, whose eye explores
The wealthiest isles, the most enchanting shores,
Views not a realm so bountiful and fair,
Nor breathes the spirit of a purer air;
In ev'ry clime the magnet of his soul,
Touch'd by remembrance, trembles to that pole;
For in this land of Heav'n's peculiar grace,
The heritage of nature's noblest race,
There is a spot of Earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest,

Where man, creation's tyrant, casts aside
His sword and sceptre, pageantry and pride,
While in his softened looks benignly blend
The sire, the son, the husband, father, friend;
Here woman reigns; the mother, daughter, wife,
Strews with fresh flow'rs the narrow way of life;
In the clear Heav'n of her delightful eye,
An angel-guard of loves and graces lie;
Around her knees domestic duties meet,
And fireside pleasures gambol at her feet.
"Where shall that land, that spot of earth be found?"
Art thou a man?—a patriot?—look around;
O, thou shalt find, howe'er thy footsteps roam,
That land thy country, and that spot thy home."

We were informed at Cosir, that some vessels of the Indian Expedition, under General Baird, had been lost in the passage, and that several of the troops perished. Fifteen ships of war had been lost altogether in this sea since the French occupied Egypt. We found here thirty sail, including transports, in want of water and other necessaries. The fresh water of this place is very bad, and even *that* must be purchased. We procured a small supply from the men of war. On the evening of the 26th. we made preparations for de-barking, and were much chagrined to find ourselves under the necessity of wading from the boats,

with our arms, &c. nearly up to the middle in water. By the time we all got on shore it was nearly dark, and walking on the sands in our wet clothes, rendered us very uncomfortable. We were ordered to encamp about a mile from the beach; our only bedding was a solitary blanket each, in which we rolled ourselves upon the sand, placing our knapsacks under our heads for pillows. The next day we received our instructions for the march across the Desert, towards the Nile; and though glad to turn our backs on Cosir, the appearance of the country we had to traverse, was very little calculated to enliven our spirits. The French had been here, not long before us, and had about half completed a large fortification, but the arrival of two English Frigates obliged them to abandon their work. A number of troops which had arrived before us, had fallen sick, after a few days' march in the Desert, and were forced to return. On the morning of the 27th. we commenced our arrangements to leave this miserable place. Our first object of importance was to secure a sufficient number of camels to carry water, camp-equipage, &c. (but in this our hopes were disappointed, being able to procure only twelve.) This was, undoubtedly,

the principal cause of our sufferings, which I shall have occasion hereafter to notice more particularly. The inhabitants, owing to the scarcity of water, wash their clothes in the sea; and it is worthy of remark, that, though they make no use of soap, their wearing apparel is, in general remarkably white. There are a few springs, but these are so brackish, that those who drink of them (particularly Europeans) are generally afflicted with a violent *diarhœa*. About five o'clock in the evening of the 27th. we struck our tents, and formed a line of march in the following order: our Guide, who was an Arab, rode in front, on a young Camel, with a long spear in his hand; next followed a tumbril of money, for the use of the army, drawn by eight Indian Bullocks: then a Guard of Artillery. After these followed twelve Camels in a line, with water, camp-equipage, &c. led by Arabs: next a company of Seapoys, from Bombay, with their Officers; and in the rear, a detachment of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, commanded by a Captain-lieutenant, who, for want of better accommodation was obliged to travel upon an ass. We continued our route in this order till we came

to a place called the New-Wells, where we encamped, the whole party being nearly exhausted by fatigue and thirst. Our allowance of water was so exceedingly small, that it is impossible to describe the effect it had upon me. I would have sacrificed any thing for water, bad as it was; I was even glad to part with some of my *rum*, (a canteen of which had been given me by the Captain of the ship we were in, with whom I had always been on very good terms) for a few draughts of the simple element. I was much surprised to find that the Sea-poys, so used to a warm climate, felt the effects of fatigue so much sooner than the Europeans, for it was with great difficulty they were able to keep upon their legs. The entrance to this Desert, is a wide valley, flanked by stupendous mountains. In this dismal waste the eye is never once relieved by any appearance of vegetation; nothing but rocks and sands extend on every side; it is never visited by even the *dew* of heaven! A disorder prevailed amongst some of our people, which we were not able to account for; the effects of it were so terrible, that they became nearly blind; some imagined that they saw edge-tools, glass-bottles, &c. thrown

in their way. One, in particular, with whom I was walking, bade me turn aside to avoid them. Fortunately, I escaped the horrors of this complaint.

On the 28th. about four in the afternoon, we again struck our tents, and began to load our camels: at five we recommenced our painful march. Some of our party suffered dreadfully from want of water, and purchased what they could from the Arabs, who led our Camels, but on the most imposingly extravagant terms. These fellows had the privilege of tying a leathern bag, holding about two gallons of water, to some part of the Camel's harness, which they retailed at about half-a-crown a quart, wine-measure, although extremely bad from the heat, and the disagreeable taste it imbibed from the filthy skin that contained it. One pint of good cold water would have been more satisfying than a gallon of it. Various methods were resorted to, to make it last; some sucked it through a quill; and others only washed their mouths with it, not daring to swallow it. This journey effectually convinced me, that the distresses occasioned by immoderate thirst, are far more excruciating than those of hunger. During the night, owing to ex-

cessive fatigue, two of our people fell imperceptibly into the rear, and could not be found. This being reported to the Commanding Officer, I was ordered back, with a man, in search of them, a very disagreeable and dangerous task; the line continuing to proceed. The night was fortunately calm, but excessively warm, the troops marching with only their shirts and large pantaloons on. We went back about three or four miles, making diligent search all the way, and at last were fortunate enough to fall in with them. They were both extended on the sand, completely exhausted. I gave them a little rum and water, and encouraged them to proceed, by representing the dangers to which they were exposed in that situation. One of them, however, was totally unfit to move. It would be difficult for my readers to form an idea of our situation at this time; the caravan several miles in advance of us, and we, without a guide on a pathless waste! To leave a sick comrade was what we could not bear to think of; and yet, how were we to get him on, ourselves scarcely able to stand under the weight of our arms? We were reflecting on our unhappy situation, and looking anxiously at each other, when we suddenly heard the cry of

Arabs. We patiently waited their approach, and prepared our arms to resist them, in case they should prove hostile. As soon as we could discover them through the gloom of the night, our alarm ceased, as there were only four of them conducting a number of fine asses, I addressed myself to one of them in the best manner I could, and by signs made him to understand that I requested his assistance to conduct the sick man forwards. Fortunately I had a part of the rum remaining, which accomplished what humanity could not. At first the Arab refused to drink, but after I had set him the example, he put it to his lips and seemed delighted with it's flavour. He then called to his companions, signifying to me that he wished them to taste also, I complied, and they, without further hesitation picked out two of the best asses for our use. We got the sick men mounted, and proceeded towards the camp, at the rate of five miles an hour. The Arabs accompanied us till we rejoined the caravan, and then bade us farewell. The hand of Providence was thus stretched out in favour of these poor men, at a moment when we had despaired of every human aid. If the company of Arabs had been more numerous, it is probable we should have fallen a

sacrifice to their rapacity; and if our fatigued companions had been left where they halted till sun-rise, the heat would doubtless have killed them, as they could neither have found shelter or subsistence. I adore in secret, that divine power, of whose paternal care we daily experience so many fresh proofs. We encamped this morning on a kind of chalky earth, very hard and warm, and were nearly surrounded by high rocks and mountains, which reflected the sun's rays so forcibly on our encampment, as nearly to parch our bodies. The water which we had brought from the New-Wells, was very bad and scarce; which, together with the fatigue and agitation of mind I had undergone, threw me into a fever, and when we again set out on our march my strength failed me. This being reported to the Commanding Officer, I was requested to mount one of the Camels, which had been brought expressly for the use of the sick; but I found the motion of this useful animal so extremely uncomfortable in my situation, that it was impossible to bear it. My case was now rendered desperate; but I was determined to dismount at all events, and fall into the rear; in doing which, my foot got entangled in a rope by which the next Camel was led, and I fell

under his feet. The sagacious beast, however, trod clear of me, and I escaped unhurt. Notwithstanding this, I wonderfully acquired new strength, and a little time afterwards was enabled to perform my march as well as any of the detachment. During this dreadful night the distress that was felt will ever be impressed on my memory; the demand for water to allay the excessive thirst, was so great, that I was glad to give a Spanish dollar and a rupee, (which is seven shillings English) to obtain some, though it was warm, and so chalky as to resemble milk. Those who had no money gladly gave their handkerchiefs, or any thing they could spare to obtain a little of this precious beverage; but about three in the morning, when we arrived at the next encampment, called *Moyloe*, we had the good fortune to find tolerably good springs, issuing from rocks, one of which afforded a complete shelter from the sun. This was indeed a treat; and no language can express the joy and thankfulness, which now beamed in every countenance; if we had found a mine of gold it could not have been half so agreeable to us as this refreshment. I sat down by the spring with a few companions, enraptured with our good fortune, for upwards of two

hours, drinking occasionally; and left it at last with the greatest reluctance. Several of our stoutest men who had fallen ill during the night, now recovered, and we were able next evening to proceed on our journey with fresh strength and spirits. In the course of this march, we observed many dead Camels lying on the sand, which we supposed had perished under their excessive burdens; for these animals seem formed for the Desert, and would perform long journies daily, without difficulty, if their loads were adapted to their strength. They are harmless and patient, never restive but when overburdened; and extremely sure-footed when on a dry soil, but on marshy ground, can scarcely keep their legs. "It is in the Desert," says an ingenious traveller, "that we redouble our respect for that venerable animal, the Camel; however hard his condition, he enters into its necessity, and conforms to it without impatience. The true gift of Providence, he is placed on the globe, in a region where, for the assistance he affords to man, his place could not be supplied by any agent. The sand is his element; as soon as he leaves it, and touches mud, he can scarcely support himself; his frequent falls, and his embarrassments, make us tremble for him, for his lading, or for his

rider; but it may be said, that a Camel in the Desert, is as a fish in the water." He kneels down to receive his load; and if he be able, with the utmost exertion, to rise with it, the cruel Arab judges it not too much, and goads him on sometimes till the poor animal can move no more. It often happened on the commencement of our march, that some of our Camels would lie down and roar by being overburdened, (as we conjectured) therefore to ease the poor beasts we reduced our baggage by casting away every thing that was considered superfluous; but it afterwards appeared it was owing to the bad construction of their saddles which severely wounded their backs.

On the 31st. about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, we again struck our tents, and marched till we came to two small wells, where we encamped. We had not been long here before a caravan of Arabs came up, travelling in a contrary direction. It consisted of about fifty Camels, with a person on each. It seems they fully intended to halt at these wells, if we had not prevented them; which would have distressed us beyond measure. Our conductor informed them that the supply in the wells

was not sufficient for both parties, and, in a very imperious tone, commanded them to proceed on their journey. For although I did not comprehend their language, yet I could plainly discover by their gestures what they meant. The Arabs seemed determined, however, to stop at the wells, which so much enraged our guide, that he hastened to a rock, sharpened his spear, and threatened the conductor of the caravan, which induced them immediately to recommence their journey. This encampment was at the foot of a stupendous mountain, in the midst of sand and huge rocks. These wells are about two hundred yards from the tract we were in, and being not above a foot deep, it was evident that if the Arabs before-mentioned had been suffered to stop, we should not have had sufficient water. We had a small *ratio* of wine served out occasionally, which, with a little biscuit, proved very grateful to our empty stomachs; for although we had brought meat from Cosir, and wood for cooking, few of us found any desire to eat. On the first of August, at five in the evening, we continued our march, which became excessively irksome. Several of the troops again fell ill. During the night the most solemn and mournful silence prevailed, (owing to the lan-

guor and debilitated state of our bodies, and the excessive fatigue we had undergone) except when our guide talked or sung to encourage our Camels, who seem fond of the human voice, echoing among the rocks, in the midst of this solitude. The Arabs who led them, carried each a tinder box, for the purpose of lighting their pipes, which they use to great excess. August 2d. we began our march at six in the evening, and continued on foot the whole night. On our way we found two Seapoy soldiers almost ready to expire with fatigue and thirst. One of them was only able to articulate *Poney*, which in their language signifies water. Although our stock of that precious article was very low, yet humanity compelled us, to spare a little for these unfortunate men, who, however, could not keep it on their stomachs. We at length made room for one of them on a Camel; but the other was too far exhausted to proceed, and he undoubtedly perished. During this night it cost me five shillings for water; and glad was I to procure a little at any price. About the time of sun-rise we arrived at *Getta*, the place appointed for our encampment; where we were surprised by a number of Arabs, who, hearing of our coming, had brought bread, fowls, eggs,

&c. From *Kinneh*, or *Ghinna*, (a large town near the Nile) they sold these articles most extravagantly dear, but we were glad to purchase at any price. During this march two Seapoy soldiers were found, who had unfortunately fallen in the rear of some party before us, and had been murdered by some of the wandering Arabs. Two of the assassins were secured, and delivered over to us, to be conducted to *Kinneh*, for trial. In the last night's march, which was a very long one, I commanded the guard over them, and was very apprehensive (such is the activity and cunning of these wretches) that they would make their escape: They had each an ass allowed them to carry what property they possessed: Part of the guard marched before, and part behind them, with fixed bayonets, and I kept in the rear with a drawn sabre, to watch their motions more narrowly. When we arrived at *Kinneh*, I placed centinels over them till they were delivered up to the Governor, who, soon after, on hearing the circumstances, ordered them for execution. One of the centinels afterwards told me, that they had made signs to him during his watch, which indicated that they expected nothing less than decapitation. We arrived at *Kinneh* about

three o'clock in the morning of the 5th, excessively fatigued; for the sand became heavier as we approached the Nile, which was at this period flowing within two hundred yards of us. Having pitched our tents, we were soon surrounded by the inhabitants (who are chiefly Arabs) bringing with them for sale the productions of the place, which they sold extremely cheap. If the Cape of Good Hope had not been discovered, and the government of Egypt had been favourable to commerce, in all probability *Kinneh* would have become one of the first marts in the world for the trade of India, but now it is supported chiefly by travellers, who here stock themselves with provisions, &c. for their journey across the Desert. During our stay in it, I was disgusted with the lewd and imprudent behaviour of the females. The streets are narrow, and the houses remarkably high, as in most other large towns in warm climates; so constructed, I suppose, to prevent the sun's full effect, for any length of time on the streets, which should be kept as cool as possible for the transaction of business, and the preservation of those articles of commerce, which might otherwise spoil in excessive heat. I observed a great number of Buffaloes and fine horses; the Turks being as

fond of riding here, as at Mocha; indeed, it seems to be their principal exercise. The distance from Cosir across the Desert to *Kinneh*, is computed to be 120 miles.

I here present my readers with a short description of Arabia, from the elegant pen of Gibbon. — "In the vacant space between Persia, Syria, Egypt, and Ethiopia, the Arabian Peninsula may be considered as a triangle of spacious but irregular dimensions. From the northern point of Beles on the Euphrates, a line of fifteen hundred miles is determined by the straits of Babelmandel and the land of Frankincence. About half this length may be allowed for the middle breadth from east to west, from Bassora to Suez, from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea: The sides of the triangle are gradually enlarged, and the southern basis presents a front of a thousand miles to the Indian Ocean. The entire surface of the Peninsula exceeds in a fourfold proportion that of Germany or France; but the far greater part has justly been stigmatized with the epithets of the stony and the sandy. Even the wilds of Tartary are decked by the hand of nature with lofty trees and luxuriant

herbage, and the lonesome traveller derives a sort of comfort and society from the presence of vegetable life. But in the dreary waste of Arabia, a boundless level of sand is intersected by sharp and naked mountains, and the face of the Desert, without shade or shelter, is scorched by the direct and intense rays of a tropical sun. Instead of refreshing breezes, the winds particularly from the south west, diffuse a noxious and even deadly vapour; the hillocks of sand, which they alternately raise and scatter, are compared to the billows of the ocean, and whole caravans, whole armies, have been lost and buried in the whirlwind. The common benefits of water are an object of desire and contest; and, such is the scarcity of wood, that some art is requisite to preserve and propagate the element of fire.

Arabia is destitute of navigable rivers, which fertilize the soil, and convey produce to the adjacent regions: The torrents that fall from the hills are imbibed by the thirsty earth: The rare and hardy plants, the tamarinds, or the acacia, that strike their roots into the clefts of the rocks, are nourished by the dews of the night: A scanty

supply of rain is collected in cisterns and aqueducts: The wells and springs are the secret treasures of the Desert; and the Pilgrims of Mecca, after many a dry and sultry march, is disgusted by the taste of the waters, which have rolled over a bed of sulphur or salt. Such is the general and genuine picture of the climate of Arabia, The experience of evil enhances the value of any local or partial enjoyments. A shady grove, a green pasture, a stream of fresh water, are sufficient to attract a colony of sedentary Arabs to the fortunate spots, which can afford food and refreshment to themselves and their cattle, and which encourage their industry in the cultivation of the Palm Tree and the Vine. The high lands, that border on the Indian Ocean, are distinguished by their superior plenty in wood and water; the air is more temperate, the fruits are more delicious, the animals and the human race more numerous; the fertility of the soil invites and rewards the toil of the husbandman; and the precious gifts of frankincense and coffee, have attracted in different ages, the merchants of the world."

I will add a short account of the Pillars of Sand,

sometimes formed on the Deserts, from the travels of Bruce, and then proceed with my narrative. "We alighted," says he, "among some Acacia Trees, at Waadi et Haloub, and were at once surprised and terrified by a sight, surely one of the most magnificent in the world. In that vast expanse of the Desert, from W. to N. W. of us, we saw a number of prodigious Pillars of Sand at different distances, at times moving with great celerity, at others, stalking on with a majestic slowness; at intervals we thought they were coming in a very few minutes to overwhelm us; and small quantities of sand did actually more than once reach us. Again they would retreat so as to be almost out of sight, their tops reaching to the very clouds. Then the tops often separated from the bodies; and these once disjoined, dispersed in the air, and did not appear more. Sometimes they were to be seen in the middle, as if struck with large cannon shot. About noon they began to advance with universal swiftness upon us, the wind being very strong at north. Eleven of them ranged along side of us about the distance of three miles. The greatest diameter of the largest appeared to me at that distance as if it would measure ten feet. They

retired from us with a wind at south east, leaving an impression upon my mind to which I can give no name, though surely one ingredient in it was fear, with a considerable degree of wonder and astonishment. It was in vain to think of flying; the swiftest horse, or fastest sailing ship, could be of no use to carry us out of this danger, and the full persuasion of this rivetted me as to the spot where I stood. The same appearance presented to us again, only they seemed more in number, and less in size. They came several times in a direction close upon us, that is, within two miles, or less. They began immediately after sun rise like a thick wood, and almost darkened the sun: His rays shining through them for near an hour, gave them an appearance of pillars of fire. Our people now became desperate, the Greeks shrieked out, and said, it was the day of judgment: Ismael, (one of his guides) pronounced it to be hell; and the Turcorories (some of his attendants) that the world was on fire."

On the 6th. in the afternoon, we struck our tents and embarked in Egyptian boats on the Nile, for the purpose of dropping down to *Grand Cairo.*

The current carrying us about four miles an hour; the river being at this time very high. Nothing could be more rural and beautiful than its banks, which to us, after traversing so barren a country, appeared absolutely enchanting. On the 7th, in the forenoon, we hauled our boats close along-side the bank, and went on shore to a small village for provisions. The inhabitants at our approach, drove away their cattle with all possible haste, and refused to supply our wants, which obliged us to have recourse to forcible arguments. We approached the village with our small detachment, and a few Dragoons mounted; at the sight of which, the natives immediately brought down their cattle, cakes of bread, melons, salt, eggs, &c., which were very cheap and good. After purchasing what we wanted, we again embarked, and continued our course. The inhabitants of this country had been so robbed and ill used by the French, that the sight of an armed European in their villages, filled them with terror. As a specimen of their cruelty, I shall here give an extract from the "Travels of *De Non.*" one of the *literati* who accompanied Bonaparte to Egypt, and who, although a Frenchman, and a constant companion of some of the principal

Generals of the French army, has had the candour to set the atrocities committed by his countrymen, sometimes in a *true* point of view. "The lot of the inhabitants (says he) for *whose* welfare we were certainly arrived in Egypt, was not to be preferred: If, at our approach, fright forced them from their houses, when they returned after our passage, they found nothing but the mud of which their walls were composed. Utensils, ploughs, doors, roofs, all had served to make a fire for our soup; their pots were cracked, their corn eaten, their chickens and pigeons roasted, nothing was left but the dead bodies of the dogs, who had attempted to defend the property of their masters. If we sojourned in the villages, we summoned the wretched people to return to them, under pain of being treated as rebels associated with our enemies, and, in consequence, taxed with a double contribution, and when they submitted to these menaces, and discharged the *miri*, (or taxes) it sometimes happened that their large numbers were taken for a riot, their sticks for arms, and it was not till after *some* volleys from the riflemen and patroles that an explanation could be obtained: The dead were buried; and friendship continued, till an occasion offered

a heavy and certain revenge. It is true that, if they remained among us, if they paid the *miri*, and if they supplied all the wants of the army, they were spared the trouble of a journey and an abode in the Desert; they saw their provisions eaten in good order; they saved a part of their doors; sold their eggs to the soldiers, and had but a *few* of their daughters and wives violated; but, in this case, they found themselves guilty of the attachment they had shewn us, so that when the Mamelukes followed, they did not leave them a dollar, a horse, or a Camel; and the *Shiek* frequently paid with his head for the partiality which the latter imputed." As further proofs of the exactions and cruelties committed by Bonaparte and his hordes; in this country the following are selected:—"The enemy landed on the coast of Egypt, an army of thirty thousand men, in the evening of the 2d. of July, 1798. He met no opposition whatever, for though the Commandant of Alexandria had been informed, that the French intended to invade Egypt, he did not credit it, convinced as he was, that the French Republic and the Ottoman Porte were at peace, and he made no preparations to oppose an army, which, consistently with the rights of civilized nations he could

not expect. As soon as Bonaparte had landed his troops, he proceeded to attack Alexandria. The garrison consisted of about 500 Turks, of whom scarcely a man knew how to level a musket. The Turks repulsed on every side, betake themselves to God and their Prophet — and filled their mosques with men, women and children at the breast, all of whom were massacred; for it was thought necessary to begin by striking terror into the enemy: the few inhabitants that remained were exceedingly astonished at finding that their throats were not cut, and well they might be astonished—after beholding their friends, relations, wives, children, &c. cruelly and wantonly butchered during four hours, those who remained had every reason to wonder at their not becoming the victims of Bonaparte's horde of assassins!—The acts of cruelty which Bonaparte committed at Alexandria, are so numerous, that it would be almost impossible to relate them all. We cannot however pass over his dishonourable conduct relative to hostages. — The few distressed inhabitants who escaped the dreadful massacre, were not permitted to embrace their children, who were ordered to be delivered up as hostages, as pledges of their pacific intentions!! Those unfortunate

children were put on board the *L'Orient*, and horrible to relate! it appears that, they all perished in the explosion of that ship on the first of August, when engaged with the British fleet under the command of Admiral Nelson.—To prove the disregard which Bonaparte entertained for the lives of his own soldiers, I here insert the contents of a letter written by one of their principal officers:—"Leaving Alexandria to ascend the Nile, we crossed a Desert as bare as my hand, where, at every three or four leagues, we found a paltry well of brackish water. Imagine the situation of an army obliged to pass these arid plains, which do not afford the slightest shelter against the intolerable heat which prevails there. The soldiers, loaded with provisions, found themselves, before they had marched an hour, so overcome with heat, and the weight that they carried, that they threw away every thing which added to their fatigues, without thinking of the succeeding day. Thirst attacked them—they had not a drop of water! Others were seized with raging hunger, and had not a bit of bread! It was amidst the horrors of that faithful picture, that, we beheld several of our soldiers die of hunger, of thirst, and of heat; others who saw the sufferings of their comrades,

blew out their own brains; others threw themselves, loaded as they were, into the Nile, and voluntarily perished in the water! Every day of our march these dreadful scenes were renewed; and, what was never heard of before, and is almost incredible, the army, during a march of seventeen days, never tasted bread! The soldiers lived, during the whole of that time, on gourds, melons, poultry, and whatever vegetables they could find! Many of the officers fared no better—frequently worse—for the privates plundering the villages of every article of subsistence, often reduced their officers to satisfy themselves with the refuse of their voracity."—Bonaparte's principle of extortion certainly runs parallel with his cruelty. A striking instance of which we have in a visit which he and some of his principal officers paid to Madame Murad Bey, the widow of the great Ali Bey; after the treaty of peace had been ratified between the Mamelukes and the French, that Lady entertained them with all the hospitality which she could possibly shew, and as they retired, she presented a ring of considerable value to young Eugene Beauharnois, son of Madame Bonaparte. A few days afterwards a contribution was levied on her property of a far greater extent than her pro-

portion had been previously fixed at, and much beyond her ability to pay! On her complaining, she received for answer, "That as it was understood she still possessed very costly ornaments, no mitigation could be pleaded." This imposition then appeared to be grounded on the *present*, which she had so beneficently, but as it proved, imprudently, given to the relation of Bonaparte, with the motive of shewing honour to that general! As such it was considered the greatest breach of faith and hospitality; nor could Murad Bey ever speak of the transaction, without the bitterest expressions of indignation. This great and valuable man who was so highly respected by the Beys and Mamelukes, died of the plague, previously to the total expulsion of the French from Egypt by our troops. He expired on the 22d. of April, 1801, and to his last moments he never forgave Bonaparte for the numerous wanton, and unprovoked cruelties which he had committed in Egypt.

No wonder then, that these defenceless people of Egypt should fly from us, (having been eye-witnesses to the repeated acts of cruelty committed by the French army during its stay in this country) till they

were convinced of our proceedings. Every place that we had an opportunity of viewing presented the most dreadful picture of the rapacity of the enemy we had come to expel; and happy indeed must the soil be, which could so soon re-assume an appearance of fertility after the visit of these *locusts* in human shape. In the evening of the 7th. we again anchored, to cook our provisions, which we did in a beautiful grove, close to the river. This method of anchoring, (if it may be so called) was by driving large stakes into the bank with heavy mallets, which our Arabs carried with them for that purpose, and lashing the boats thereto with strong cords. Next morning we stopped near a large town called *Orzomontzo*, where I first drank a liquor donominated by the natives *rosolio*, in taste something like anniseed-water, but very heady. The same evening we were obliged to bring-to at a small village, having (from the overflowing of the river) got out of it's tract, and next morning pursued our course. On the 9th. we stopped opposite to two beautiful villages, and purchased sheep, eggs, &c. On the 10th. we arrived at *Seyoch*, where the natives brought down a number of asses, saddled after the Turkish manner, and entertained us with races. At *Malour*, a small

village where we halted to cook, I was highly delighted with its situation; it formed a magnificent umbrage of Date and Lime Trees. On the 12th. we came to a small town called *Minneh*, and received another supply of provisions. The dust made this place very disagreeable. I found here butter and cheese of a bad flavour, which must be owing to their method of making them; for the milk at this place is excellent, as it was in every part of Egypt we touched at, being chiefly that of the Buffalo. The inhabitants, principally Turks, seem much afflicted with a disorder in the eyes, that, in many produced total blindness; this was the case in nearly all the places we had passed. I was somewhat amused, as we sailed down the river to see vast herds of Buffaloes diverting themselves in the water, near the banks, almost submerged. I have often seen them cross the river with apparent ease, notwithstanding the rapidity and force of the stream. These animals when wild are much to be dreaded; but after being tamed, become shy and timid. On the 15th, early in the morning, we came to a town called *Benny-sheave*, where we obtained a young Buffalo, a few sheep, and a little bread. At this place I bought some limes and a piece of blue cloth,

which latter cost me five shillings; and although coarse, it seemed well manufactured. I had the curiosity to examine into their methods of manufacture, and found them to be nearly the same as in England, particularly in the weaving part. I was informed the French army had an encampment here consisting of 4000 men, and I observed a large building, nearly half completed, intended probably for barracks, with a small battery in front. A few of the French soldiers still remained at this place, who had become Mahometans. In the afternoon, we came in sight of the Pyramids' and in the evening halted near a small village to cook our meat, and on the forenoon of the following day, arrived at the celebrated city of *Grand Cairo.* We had thus been eleven days and nights in these open boats, and during that time had never taken off our clothes to sleep; indeed our situation on board was inimical to the reign of Morpheus, for we were obliged to repose in common with sheep and Buffaloes, and were only separated from the horses by a slight partition. When night came on every one was seeking a snug birth to rest himself for a few hours; but it required the greatest activity and resolution to accomplish this object. I was frequently solicited

to eat and smoke with one of the Arabs belonging to the boat; the latter I sometimes accepted; but the former I never could accommodate my appetite to, on account of their excessive filthiness. The houses in the villages we had passed were chiefly constructed of mud and wood; and most of them had places for the reception of pigeons; of which the inhabitants are remarkably fond. All the laborious work is done by Arabs, who are employed with oxen and other beasts, to draw water from the Nile, and cast it into the sluices formed to receive it. They have several machines, differently constructed, for raising the water, by which they are enabled to throw up large quantities in a short time.—I noticed on our passage, that in almost every town, or village, there were numerous stacks of corn; and many people were employed in thrashing and winnowing it. Their manner of dividing the grain from the ear, is by driving a Buffalo in a circular direction over the floor where the corn is laid, in the same manner as at the Cape of Good Hope, and other eastern countries.

The Nile was at this time of a red colour, exceedingly rapid, and at its full height. In some

places it is said to be three leagues broad, particularly near *Cairo;* but in others much narrower. The farms, situated on its banks, are rented according to the proportion of its annual overflow, for if it do not rise to a certain height, to expand its waters, there is no probability of a plentiful harvest that season, the ground being so dried, and destitute of humidity, that the farmer cannot sow with any prospect of future reward. After the overflowing, there is a slimy substance left behind, as the river retires within its banks, which is the only manure the land receives. The progress of vegetation is extremely rapid, but it is remarked that all exotic plants degenerate here, and the merchants are necessitated to renew their seeds every year, and send to the islands of the Mediterranean for their cauliflowers, and other vegetables. This river has its source at the foot of a stupendous mountain, in the province of *Gojam*, in Abyssinia, arising from two springs, about thirty paces from each other, which have the appearance of ordinary wells, and after a long course, discharges itself into the *Levant-Sea*, by several channels, of which, the principal are those of *Rosetto* and *Damietta.* The Nile is thus described by THOMSON :

" From his two springs, in Gojam's sunny realm,
Pure welling out, he through the lucid lake
Of fair Dambea rolls his infant stream.
There by the Naiads nurs'd, he sports away
His playful youth, amid the fragrant Isles,
That with unfading verdure smile around.
Ambitious, thence the manly river breaks;
And gathering many a flood, and copious fed
With all the mellow'd treasures of the sky.
Winds in progressive majesty along:
Through splendid Kingdoms now devolves his maze,
Now wanders wild o'er solitary tracts
Of life deserted sand; till, glad to quit
The joyless Desert, down the Nubian rocks
From thund'ring steep to steep, he pours his urn,
And Egypt joys beneath the spreading wave."

The day the Nile rises to its proper height, is solemnized by a festival and fire-works, with other marks of public joy. The inhabitants consider it as sacred, and possessing some divine virtue; and on this persuasion, mothers are seen plunging their children into the stream, with the view of purifying them. Crocodiles, with which we are told this river abounds, are seldom seen when it overflows; as they retire within the sluices and holes about the banks, to avoid the force of the stream. I was very anxious to see one of these creatures, (but in this I was unsuccessful) and to ascertain if they really are so formidable to man as generally repre-

sented. I have heard of their pursuing people, and entering into the villages in quest of food; but I am since credibly informed by the natives, that they are remarkably shy, seldom quitting the river, excepting to bask on its banks. This animal is said to be a species of the Alligator, being amphibious and of a great length, some of them are twenty feet long, in shape like the Lizard, with four feet or claws; his back is cloathed with a kind of impenetrable scales like armour; they wait for their prey in the sedges, and other covers on the side of the river, and resembling as they lie, the trunks of old trees, sometimes surprising the unwary traveller. It is an oviparous animal, and lays a vast number of eggs, which are frequently destroyed by other animals; otherwise the country would swarm with them. The ancients have entertained us with relations which probably never occurred, such as the little bird *Trochileus*, which is said to live on the meat he picks out of the Crocodile's teeth; and the rat, *Ichneumon*, which they say will jump into the Crocodile's mouth, and eat it's way out again through his belly. The manners and customs of the Arabs, frequently attracted my notice: These people, it seems, dispersed themselves over this country in the

year 640, when their countryman *Amran*, induced by the richness of the land, expelled the Greeks, who had taken possession of it, and conquered this garden of the world. They are stout and well made; their skin is of a dark copper-colour; their heads are close shaved, excepting a single lock immediately on the crown, by which they suppose their prophet Mahomet is to draw them up to heaven! and their beards are not suffered to know the use of the razor or scissars. Their dress generally consists of a dark brown gown, made something like a clergyman's cassock, but quite wide; a white or red turban covers the head, and they bind six or eight yards of fine cotton round the waist, which serves them to kneel on when they pray: they are strict Mahometans, and are heard on their house tops in the morning vociferating Mahomet's name incessantly, in a kind of ejaculatory prayer, which to a stranger appears very ridiculous. Their modes of cooking and eating are as filthy as those of the Hottentots. Their principal vegetable food are dates, which they find in abundance in the woods. They cook them in different ways; but to me they tasted insipid when quite ripe, but if taken from the tree when green they taste more pleasant. These people

live in tents scattered over the country, pitched generally in a circular form, which description of village they call *Douar;* they lie on mats, and their outside covering which they wear in the day, covers them at night. This race of people rise very early, punctually attending their public devotions at break of day; again at noon; at sun-set; and at setting of the watch, that is, when it begins to grow dark.

On the evening of the 7th. of August, we disembarked on the island of *Rhoda*, where the greatest part of the Mamelukes had taken refuge from the fury of the French. These people who are the principal military force of the country, (and strictly speaking, are really masters of Egypt) were originally Mingrelian and Georgian slaves. They are trained up to the military exercise from their youth, and as they are all cavalry, mounted on fine Arabian and Egyptian horses, they almost every day resort to some level piece of ground, and there in full gallop exercise themselves in the use of the carabine, discharging it at a mark loaded with ten or twelve balls, and then throwing it under their thigh, seize a large pistol, which they fire and cast over their shoulder, and instantly a second,

trusting to the string by which they were attached, without losing any time in returning them to their proper place. They are likewise armed with a sabre, in the management of which they are very expert. Their dress consists of a wide yellow shirt, made of thin cotton, over which they have another covering of light stuff; this robe covers them completely from the neck to the ancles, and descends to their finger ends, as they consider it indecent to appear before their superiors with them uncovered. They have another dress made of cloth without lining, only the sleeves are cut at the elbows. In cold weather they have it generally trimmed with fur, and even sometimes in Summer, in order to protect the body from the baneful influence of the nightly air. They leave their necks bare and on their heads generally wear a turban of a yellow colour, turned up on the outside with a little fine linen neatly formed. When the French first landed in Egypt, they had several encounters with the Mamelukes, in which the latter were almost always defeated, and at length ultimately dispersed and driven throughout the country into the Desert.

The Island of *Rhoda* stands opposite *Cairo*, at

the distance of about half a mile; near this stands *Giza*, the ancient *Memphis*. On the 20th. I crossed the water to *New Cairo*, with four companions, and on landing found a number of fine asses, caparisoned after the Turkish manner, which we hired and proceeded to the city. The population of this place is so considerable, and the streets so narrow, that we found it very difficult to get along. We rode nearly from one end to the other, and met the Turks, as usual, mounted on beautiful horses, richly furnished, and several Arabs with wands to clear the road for them, without which it would be impossible for them either to ride or walk here in their pompous style. The Turkish women ride in the same manner as the men, generally wearing yellow boots, over which they put slippers: When on foot, their dress is chiefly made of black silk, cut in a very aukward form, with a head-dress of the same material, made to fit quite close. Over all they throw a veil, through which we could only perceive the forehead and eyes; this gives them a disgusting appearance. In the course of the day we met a funeral, attended by a great number of people walking before the corpse, shouting and making a dismal noise. *Cairo* is said to contain

about 700,000 inhabitants. It consists of three towns, about a mile apart, viz. *Old Cairo*, *New Cairo*, and *Bulac* the port. *Old Cairo* is small and is the harbour for boats that come from Upper Egypt. The water of the Nile is conveyed into the city by a canal called *Kalish*, which is about twenty feet broad, having houses on each side. The streets are extremely dark and dirty, infested with beggars of every description, who weary the passengers with their importunities. The Turks will not permit the settlers of other nations, such as Greeks, Arminians, Jews, &c. to ride on horses, but reserve that privilege to themselves as a particular mark of distinction. The *Ophthalmy*, or disorder of the eyes, is so very prevalent here, that out of ten or twelve people whom you chance to meet, there are two or three of them blind, and many who have lost an eye and otherwise much impaired in sight. It is really astonishing, with what apathy and indifference they support so dreadful a disorder, they are hardly ever heard to repine, but suffer this cruel pain with the greatest resignation. Various reasons have been assigned by travellers as to the cause of this disease; some have ascribed it to the subtile particles of sand which are continually flying

about and attack the eyes. Others seem to think that it is owing to the hot southern winds which are prevalent here; but when I take into consideration circumstances which have occurred immediately under my own notice, I am led to think otherwise, as I have known persons to lie down at night in their tents perfectly well, and when they arose in the morning, to the astonishment of their companions as well as themselves, they were totally deprived of sight. Their eyes were completely swelled-up, and generally remained so for a fortnight or three weeks in this dismal situation, during which period the afflicted person laboured under the most excruciating pain. The most salutary remedy that we could find out, was that of bathing the face and parts afflicted in cold spring water, which was frequently attended with success. But as to the real cause of this distemper it is a problem so difficult, that the most judicious among us were unable to solve.—During our stay here, we saw a great number of mountebanks and jugglers, who are extremely clever at their slight-of-hand tricks, which they exhibit in the streets: when they make their appearance, they are soon surrounded by spectators; and after they have performed a certain time, a collection is then made,

and they remove themselves to another quarter to exhibit there the same performances. Another of their public diversions is the dancing of the Camels, that caper about at the sound of a drum with surprising agility. They are trained to this exercise by cruelly leading them, in the first instance, on floors made so hot as to burn their feet, which gives them the motion they afterwards practice in the streets, and which they are reminded of as often as they hear the drum, that was beaten in their ears at the time they were taught by their inhuman masters on the burning floor. There is a holy cheat performed here annually by the *Greek* Christians, in a certain burying place, on *Good Friday*, and the two preceeding days, which some reckon among their curiosities, and others among modern miracles; it is the resurrection of human bones, some say of whole limbs, and others entire bodies, which after they have made their appearance, retire again to their graves! It is said that immense numbers of chickens are hatched here in ovens, heated, so as to have the same effect, as the warmth communicated by the hen. Thunder, however, generally proves destructive to this operation (which in certain months, is rendered very productive) and lowers the price of poultry

considerably. Provisions were brought to our camp in great abundance, and very cheap; particularly milk, coffee, sugar, and a sort of cake fried in fat, which makes it rather unpalatable to Europeans. We found the mutton generally good; but the Buffalo beef is by no means equal in flavour to that of our oxen.

In *Old Cairo*, the Greeks shew the identical place (as they say) where Joseph and Mary resided, with our blessed Saviour, during their stay in this country; a church being now built on the spot, dedicated to the holy virgin. Joseph's well is also shewn here; which is 300 feet deep, and contains delicous water, report says, that this is the only well in the kingdom. Buffaloes are employed to draw up the water, there is a road to the bottom, which most strangers visit. Historians inform us, that from this country comes that vagrant race denominated *Gipsies;* they were originally called *Zinganees* by the Turks, from their Captain *Zinganeus*, who, when Sultan *Selimus* made a conquest of Egypt, about the year 1517, refused to submit to the Turkish yoke, and retired into the Deserts, where they lived by rapine and plunder,

and frequently came down to the plains of Egypt, committing great outrages in the towns upon the *Nile*, under the dominion of the Turks, but being at length subdued and banished Egypt, they agreed to disperse themselves in small parties to almost every country in Europe; and as they were natives of Egypt, a country where the occult sciences, or black art (as it is denominated) was considered to have arrived at great perfection, and which in that credulous time was in great repute, with almost all people of every religious persuasion, consequently they found the inhabitants wherever they came very easily imposed upon. Among other curiosities not already mentioned, is the *Hippopotamus*, or river horse: This animal is larger than an ox, the hinder part much like one, and its head like a horse, having thick large feet with claws, and a tail like an Elephant, it is amphibious, comes out of the river and feeds on the grass in the meadows; they are, however, a shy animal, and are rarely to be seen. There are likewise Tygers, Hyenas, and a number of Monkeys, whose head resemble a dog's; and rats so numerous, that the inhabitants of some villages eat them. Serpents are also to be found here, the principal of which is the *Cerestes*,

or Horned Snake, perfectly harmless if not attacked, its bite, however, is considered mortal when enraged; notwithstanding the Egyptians can play with it without fear or apprehension, in consequence of possessing (it is said) the power of charming alluded to in Psalm 58 chap. and 4 verse. There is also a little animal something resembling a *Lizard*, called the *Camelion*, that changes colour when you look upon him; the transitions of which are vivid and brilliant. This phenomenon has never yet been properly accounted for by naturalists. The *Ibis*, a fowl resembling a duck, that used to pick up and destroy the vermin produced in the mud of the Nile, when the waters retired, was worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. These birds are now almost extinct, but there are vast numbers of Storks that visit Egypt after the flood, and are a good substitute for the *Ibis*, in destroying noxious animals. Twelve miles from *Suez*, are a number of springs, called Moses' Wells, from the probable supposition that he allowed the Children of Israel to refresh themselves at them. Four of these wells lie close together, each forming a small pool of twelve or fourteen feet across in the broadest part, and from a foot to a foot and a half deep; their

bottoms are of a slimy black colour, the taste of the water is brackish and bitter. The direction of these wells is to the southward of the town, and about two miles from the nearest part of the Red Sea.

The trade of *Cairo* chiefly consists in the exportation of tin and lead, and the importation of coffee, senna, flax, frankincense, gums, drugs, and other merchandize brought from Arabia. Raw silks from the East are likewise imported, which the inhabitants manufacture into silks and sattins, in imitation of those of India, and which they export to Europe. Sugar canes are also cultivated here, but without much success. Half a mile to the northward of *Old Caíro*, is a pleasant village called *Cassaroline*, where there are beautiful groves of oranges, lemons, &c. The military situation of *Cairo* is not very eligible; but the French had taken great pains to fortify it. They, however, surrendered all their strong positions here to the British army, without firing a shot; which probably was occasioned, in a degree, by the animosity of the natives towards them, and no doubt, they had an ardent desire to return to their own country; particularly since they

lost their Commander *Kleber*, who was assassinated by an Arab, whilst walking in his garden in this city. Sir Robert Wilson mentions this General as having been highly venerated by the French army. Some time before we arrived at *Cairo*, Kleber's coffin was carried near the British camp, for the purpose of transporting his remains to France; and, though our army was the scene of festivity when the corpse was carried along, real sorrow agitated every heart of the French. Every soldier felt that therein the bones of a father reposed; a leader, whose intrepidity had excited their admiration; who often led them to victory, and never deserted them in distress. Had Bonaparte witnessed this scene, he would probably have regretted the haughty expressions he made use of when Kleber, beginning a letter to him, wrote, *Camerade*. "Camerade" indeed! (exclaimed the Corsican) what right has Kleber, to make so free with me?"

Those lofty buildings called the Pyramids, which stand near the spot of the ancient *Memphis*, on the west side of the Nile opposite to *Cairo*, are without doubt the grandest pieces of antiquity now remaining on the face of the globe; the base of the largest is

said to cover eleven acres of land, if measured perpendicularly, it is 500 feet high, and 700 if measured obliquely from the bottom to the top; which may in some degree reconcile the various accounts we meet with of its height. There is a room in it thirty-four feet long and seventeen broad, in which is a marble chest about seven feet long, which some suppose to be a coffin in which the body of some ancient King was deposited. The tomb is open and empty, and there are not any remains of its lid to be seen. "The time when the greatest part of the Pyramids were built is unknown, but that of the large one is so evident, that it should have never been called in question. *Herodotus* attributes it to *Cheops*, with a detail of circumstances which prove his authors were well informed. *Cheops*, he says, reigned fifty years, twenty of which he employed in building the Pyramids. It is said, that 100,000 of the inhabitants of Egypt were employed, by compulsion, in hewing, transporting, and raising the stones. But *Cheops*, in his account, which is the best extant, is mentioned as the second king after Proteus, who was contemporary with the Trojan war; whence it follows, that this Pyramid was erected about one hundred and sixty years after the

building of Solomon's Temple, and eight hundred and sixty years before Christ. Destructive time, and the still more destructive hand of man, which have so defaced and destroyed all the other monuments of antiquity, have hitherto been able to effect but little against the Pyramids. The solidity of their construction, and their enormous size, have secured them against every attempt; and seem to promise them an eternal duration. All travellers speak of them with enthusiasm, and enthusiasm they may well inspire. These artificial mountains are first discovered at ten leagues distance; they seem to retire in proportion, as they are approached, and when still a league off, tower with such loftiness above our heads, that we imagine ourselves at their feet; but when at length we reach them, nothing can express the various sensations they inspire. Their stupendous height, the steep declivity of their sides, their prodigious surface, their enormous solidity, the distant ages they recall to memory, the recollection of the labour they might have cost, and the reflection that these huge rocks are the work of man, so diminitive and feeble, who crawls at their feet, lost in wonder, awe, humiliation, and reverence, altogether im-

press the mind of the spectator in a manner not to be described; but to this first transport other sentiments soon succeed. Elevated as we are with so exalted a proof of the strength of man, when we consider the purpose for which these amazing works were intended, we cannot but view them with regret. We lament, that to construct a useless sepulchre, a whole nation should have been rendered miserable twenty years: we shudder at the numberless acts of injustice and oppression these tiresome labours must have cost, in conveying, preparing, and pileing up such an immense heap of stones; and we are inflamed with indignation at the tyranny of the despots who enforced these barbarous works, a sentiment indeed which too frequently recurs on viewing the different monuments of Egypt."—The mummy pits are but a little distance from the Pyramids; they are a kind of subterraneous vaults, and of considerable extent, upwards of thirty feet deep, having extensive square alleys, on the sides of which the Egyptians used to bury their dead, setting the coffins upright in *niches*, after the embalmed bodies were put into them. Not far from here stands the *Sphinx*, (a fabulous monster) at least what remains of it, for only the head

and breast appear, and these are near thirty feet high. Some are of opinion, that it was hewn out of the rock on which it stands, and that there never was any more of it than the upper part; it resembles the head of a woman, and when complete, the body of a Lion. The Labyrinth, in Upper Egypt, is another curiosity, said to be formed out of a marble rock, in which are twelve palaces and a thousand houses: But this wonderful piece of workmanship I had not an opportunity to explore. During our stay here, we were much annoyed by flies, rather smaller than the common fly in England. Their bite or sting was so severe, as to be felt for some time afterwards; and where they once fixed, they would seldom move till we killed them; they insinuated themselves so quickly into our soup and provisions, that it was with difficulty we could swallow any thing without being beset with these troublesome guests. If by chance they entered the stomach of any person, he was immediately affected as if he had taken an emetic. I often pitied the poor Egyptian children, who, in consequence of having bad eyes, were nearly devoured by them.

Onthe 27th of August, we embarked on board our

degerms or boats, to proceed to Alexandria, the remains of the French army, under General Menou, being then in garrison in that city. Our force did not consist of much more than 6000 effective men; the non-effectives, who suffered chiefly from the effects of the climate, were left at *Giza*, with General Stewart. We took with us a number of camels and horses for the use of the army. On the 28th, we came to anchor to cook our provisions, and the same day were much entertained with the sight of one and fifty camels feeding together in one pasture. On the 30th, we put into a small village about five miles from *Rosetto* or *Raschid*, (as the natives call it) where we halted one night; but the Commander in Chief thinking it an improper place for encampment, we proceeded further down the river to *Rosetto*, where we debarked the 31st, and encamped in a wood of date trees. September 5th, I went with some friends to the town, which is situated on the western bank of the river, and is supposed to be one of the pleasantest places in Egypt. It is about two miles long, and consists of no more than three or four streets. The suburbs are surrounded with the most delightful plantations of orange, lemon, citron, and other trees; and

the country about it presented a charming prospect. They here manufacture linens of a coarse quality. A small castle or fort, called Fort Julian, about two miles from the town, particularly attracted our attention, by its fruitful appearance and rich verdure. A little below the town are two fine Islands; and the richness of the Delta (so called from its resemblance to the fourth letter in the Greek alphabet) is here seen to much advantage, and is particularly striking. I was informed that about twenty miles from *Rosetto*, there are a number of convents situated on a Desert, which contained several orders of religions. This place I understand was much infested with wild Boars. The streets of *Rosetto* are narrow; the houses very high, and by no means handsome. I was much pleased with the plan of their shops, every trade or manufacture being together, which is convenient to purchasers, and enables them to execute their business in less time. Provisions of all kinds are here very cheap and good; the milk is rich to an extreme. We also procured good port wine at a Spanish dollar per gallon.

We were now informed that the French General

Menou, had capitulated, and *Alexandria* was delivered up to the British army under General Hutchinson; so that nothing remained for our part of the troops to do. On the 7th, we had two showers of rain, which was the first we had seen since we sailed past *Johanna*, upwards of four months before. About the 26th, my eyes were afflicted with the ophthalmy, and I continued to suffer much from it for some weeks. I had therefore recourse to the general remedy of bathing them in cold water in order to alleviate the excruciating pain. On the 7th of November, we had races on the plains of *Rosetto;* a sight which had probably never been seen here before. They commenced with horses running for a plate; then asses, for a purse of dollars; after which the Arabs rode their camels for a purse of equal value. The course was about a mile round, which they had to run twice over. The racing of the latter was a novelty, and afforded much diversion to the spectators, the camels not moving faster than at a high trot; but by which pace they kept the horses that accompanied them, at the gallop. On the 18th, I hired an ass, and again visited *Rosetto*, to procure some articles for the detachment, and during my stay there, I saw a Turkish wedding

procession, which both surprised and entertained me. First marched a number of blind men, each supporting a long white wand; then Egyptian musicians. Next appeared a Camel, superbly decorated, with tall plumes of feathers on his head and bells round his neck; on his back was fixed a sort of canopy, with blue sattin curtains, edged with gold, to conceal from public view the persons who were seated under it. Then followed two other Camels, loaded nearly in the same manner, and with equal elegance. Next came a numerous company of women, dressed in black silk; but nothing more of their faces could be perceived, than their eyes and a part of their forehead. About every ten or twelve yards they uttered a dismal yell, which was succeeded by music. Two Arabs followed the women, each carrying a garland composed partly of artificial and real flowers, some of which were gilt. The next were children, from eight to ten years old, riding on beautiful horses, about twenty yards distance from each other, richly dressed; after which came four Arabs, supporting a canopy of red sattin, ornamented with gold. Underneath this walked the bride, (as I was informed) I could just perceive

her yellow boots. The procession closed with merry andrews and blind men, accompanied with kettle drums, trumpets, and other musical instruments. —Our place of encampment being very damp, proved rather unwholesome. My health appeared to decline a-pace, and I was apprehensive of the near approach of a consumption, in consequence of the fatigue and privations we had suffered in the march through the Desert, I therefore applied to a physician well acquainted with the disorders incident to eastern climes, who soon was instrumental in restoring me to good health. The plague now raged in the country with great fury, but as we adopted preventatives, it did not make much progress in our quarter. It is supposed, that this dreadful scourge, which has so often afflicted Egypt, and nearly depopulated many of her towns, does not originally break out there, but is in a manner imported by vessels that come from Constantinople or Smyrna, laden with fur, woollens, &c. In Constantinople it almost always prevails in the Summer, either in a greater or lesser degree; hence ships that trade from that place to Alexandria, often bring with them the latent seeds of that disorder, and when their goods are exposed in the Bazar or

Market of that City, the infection begins to manifest itself. The Greeks, who deal in furs, &c. and who traffic with these vessels, are generally the first victims. The infection gradually reaches Rosetto, from thence directs its course to Cairo, pursuing the customary channel of communication. As soon as it is confirmed, the European merchants have recourse to precautions by shutting themselves and their servants up in their houses, and avoid all intercourse with the natives and the city. If it is necessary to speak to any one, they always endeavour to keep at such a distance as to prevent touching with their clothes, or breathing on one another. Previous to their victuals being made use of, they generally immerse them in cold water and rinse them. By such preventives they preserve themselves from this terrible calamity, unless they are so inadvertent as to neglect any of these prudent precautions. During the time it lasts their situation is rather irksome and tedious, though they amuse themselves at cards and other recreations. When the virulence has in any wise subsided, they resume their former occupations with as much levity as if nothing had happened. Such is the force of custom and habit.

I went one morning to a small village, about two miles from the camp, named *El Hamid*, where I purchased some very good milk and eggs of the Arabs, who appeared to live here more comfortably than in other parts of the country. The women seemed possessed of tender feelings, but were cautious of speaking to us before their husbands. I have seen them run into the houses and shut the doors when we approached. They all wear what we vulgarly called *Nose-bags*, (the veil before-mentioned) which gave us no favourable idea of their beauty. In returning to the camp I was attacked by a Buffalo, who probably might have seriously injured me, if I had not crossed a lake which was fortunately nigh the spot, where he did not chuse to follow. There are many of these lakes near Rosetto, in which we saw plenty of fowl that resembled the wild ducks of England; but they are so shy that we could very rarely get within shot of them. I also noticed a great number of other birds, with exceedingly beautiful white plumage, but we never could succeed in killing one. During our stay here we buried two of our detachment in the sands, near the camp; one a non-commissioned officer, and the other a gunner; both men of good character; and

I have every reason to believe, they fell a sacrifice to their fatigues in the Desert, as they had never been well since that time. Having no clergyman with us, the funeral service was read by Captain Henry Marsh, of the Royal Artillery, a well-informed and experienced officer, whom every man amongst us looked up to as a friend and benefactor. It would be highly ungrateful in me to mention this gentleman, without paying a small tribute to his virtues. He united the soldier to the man of feeling, and by unremitting attention to his profession, uncommon suavity of manners, and an unimpeached character, enjoyed the friendship and esteem of his superior officers, and was idolized by those who had the good fortune to be under his command. We had to regret his not being with us when we crossed the Desert; so much does the presence of a kind and intelligent officer give energy and courage to the people about him.—On the 12th. of December, we marched for Alexandria, and arrived there in four days. The first day we arrived at a miserable small village, called *Etko*, inhabited principally by Arabs; and on the morrow we marched on a tolerably good road on the beach, the sand being firmer than on other parts. In the course of this day se-

veral human bodies were observed dressed in military uniform, which the wind had unburied! Before we arrived at our next encampment we had to cross a lake in boats, that, on account of our having four field pieces, with limbers, proved very troublesome. We pitched our tents as soon as we crossed it. On the 14th. we marched at six in the morning, and halted this day at *Aboukir*, rendered famous by the victory gained over the French fleet, by the late ever-to-be lamented hero, *Admiral Lord Nelson*. Next morning we continued our march, and entered the ruins of Alexandria about two o'clock in the afternoon, which still retained traces of former magnificence. We passed through the remains of a stately gateway, on the Rosetto road, where the foundation of the walls may be seen to the canal. The walls of the old city bear every mark of great antiquity, and are defended, at equal distances, by some circular towers, as are the inner ones, which appear to have been strong: They are, however, suffered to fall into decay; as well as the palace. It is said, that in this noble structure was deposited the body of Alexander the Great, (from whom the city takes its name) in a coffin of gold, which was afterwards removed. The materials for building

the new town, have been principally furnished from the ruins of the old one; so that no perfect ancient structures remain to gratify the curious observer. Marble pillars are to be met with in every direction, and I frequently discovered old floors beautifully laid with marble of various forms and colours. This city once contained the most extensive library in the world, enriched with invaluable manuscripts; but the flames of war, at various *epochs*, destroyed almost every vestige of this collection, which no doubt had taken ages to accomplish. The ancient manuscripts of the holy scriptures, are said to have been deposited here. Its destruction was the most fatal blow ever struck at the roots of literature.

In the afternoon of the 16th, I went accompanied with several friends to view the new town, which is situated close to the beach, upon an extensive tract of ground, but thinly populated. The streets are rather more uniform and commodious than those of *Kinneh*, *Cairo*, and *Rosetto;* but a traveller finds not here half the gratification which those places afford. The French had erected some amazingly large forts to protect the town and oppose the British

army. The plague made great havock here daily, sweeping away great numbers of the inhabitants instantaneously—On the 19th. we struck our tents, and went to inhabit one of the old towers of Marengo: Although the building seemed in ruins, we should have found tolerable accommodation, had it not been for the annoyance of fleas, which absolutely swarmed in it, in spite of all our efforts to destroy them. It is impossible to describe how much we suffered from this species of vermin, together with lice, which abound in Egypt during several months; and when they disappear, the people are mostly afflicted with sore eyes. The southerly or hot winds of the Desert, are certainly hurtful to the sight, and injure much the health of the body. When these winds blow, nature assumes an alarming appearance, The atmosphere at other times so very clear in this country, becomes dark and heavy; the sun soon looses his brilliancy, and becomes a saffron colour. The air, though not cloudy, is grey and thick, and is fraught with a subtle dust, which insinuates itself every where. This wind is not at first very hot, but increases in heat and aridity in proportion as it continues. All animated bodies soon perceive it by the revolution

and change which it produces. The pulmonary organs which a too rarefied air no longer expands, become contracted and painful. The respiration is short and difficult, the skin parched and dry, and the whole frame consumed by an inward heat. To allay this internal heat, the afflicted sufferer has recourse to water, but in vain, the perspiration remains obstructed; nor can coolness be found. All substances and liquids, though the sun does not appear, are hot; the streets are deserted, the inhabitants shut themselves up in the houses, and the most death-like silence reigns! It generally continues for the space of three days, but should it last beyond that time it becomes insupportable. To the traveller, whom this wind surprises, where no shelter is to be found, its influence often proves mortal to him. But the danger is most imminent when it blows in squalls, for then the celerity of the wind increases the heat to such a degree, as to occasion instantaneous death. The aridity is such, that flesh-meat exposed to the wind does not putrify but becomes hard as wood. In the Deserts, dead carcases are found dried thus, which are so light, that a man may easily lift with one hand the entire body of a Camel. It seems as if the plagues once

inflicted by heaven on the impious Pharoh, still continue to vex and destroy the land.—One night whilst I was sleeping in this comfortless abode, I dreamt that I was in England, surrounded by my friends; and when I eagerly enquired for my father, they told me he was dead and buried. I was so forcibly struck with the circumstance, that I made a memorandum of it. In reality, when I returned to my native home, my father was no more!—When the commerce of Tyre and Carthage began to decline, Alexandria arose in proportion to their *decadence*, till at length it engrossed the whole trade of the East. The stupendous tower, built on the Island of Pharos, at the extremity of the bay, as a light-house for the direction of Mariners, was formerly accounted one of the wonders of the world, but now is little more than a heap of ruins. On the 21st. the sky being clear and serene, I took a walk to view what is commonly called Pompey's Pillar, a grand and beautiful obelisk of fine granite, in the Corinthian style, which still retains a beautiful polish. It stands about a quarter of a mile from the south wall of the town, nigh the place whereon (as tradition says) a palace built by Julius Cæsar once stood. The shaft of this curious monument is

eighty-eight feet high, and nine feet in diameter; it stands on a base composed evidently of the ruins of the town, which seems to contradict its having been erected in memory of Pompey. Some consider it to refer to the age of the Roman Emperors. The superficial height of this pillar, including the base, is a hundred and fourteen feet. The pillar alone, from its height, prodigious circumference, and the solitary situation, impresses a genuine sentiment of admiration and respect. Between the old and new town are seen a number of subterraneous vaults, which in former times served as reservoirs for the river Nile; but by neglect the pipes are now rendered useless. These vaults are constructed in a style of elegance far superior to the best modern edifices in the new towns; and their marble pillars, polished floors, &c., gave me a very exalted idea of the spirited magnificence of the ancients. About the middle of January, 1802, fifty men belonging to the 10th regiment of foot, were invalided, and embarked for England: Forty-eight of them had been deprived of their sight by the climate.

From the 28th December to the 2d February, we had constant and very heavy rain; the Nile

swelled and became so rough, as to occasion many accidents, amongst which was the loss of several degerms or boats, with Buffaloes for the use of the army, as they were attempting to cross the bar. This place, at certain times, when the strong current and the sea meet, is almost impassable. The dimensions of Cleopatra's needles, (which we measured) are in length 63 feet, breadth in the thickest part, seven feet four inches; centre, six feet five inches; and near the end, five feet four inches, terminating in a point. The upright one stands upon an immense square stone of granite, the shafts being carved all over with hieroglyphic characters, such as shapes of birds, men, fish, all of which, *time* has nearly defaced; the other was turned over by part of our army, after excessive trouble, and underneath its base the following inscription was deposited, engraven upon a piece of white marble, by order of the Commander in Chief:

"*In the year of the Christian æra*, 1798, *the Republic of France landed on the shores of Egypt an army of* 40,000 *men, commanded by their most able General*, BONAPARTE. *The conduct of the general and the valour of the troops, effected*

the entire subjugation of that country; but under Divine Providence, it was reserved for the British nation to annihilate their ambitious designs. Their fleet was attacked, defeated, and destroyed, in Aboukir Bay, by a British fleet of equal force, commanded by Admiral Horatio Nelson. Their intended conquest of Syria was counteracted at Acre, by a most gallant resistance under Commodore Sir Sydney Smith; and Egypt was rescued from their dominion by a British army, inferior in numbers, commanded by General Sir Ralph Abercromby, who landed at Aboukir, on the 8th March, 1801; *defeated the French on several occasions, particularly in a most decisive action near Alexandria, on the 21st of that month, when they were driven from the field, and forced to shelter themselves in their garrisons of Cairo and Alexandria, which places subsequently surrendered by capitulation. To record to future ages these events, and to commemorate the loss sustained by the army of Sir Ralph Abercromby, who received his death wound, in the moment of victory, on that memorable day, is the design of this inscription."*

Never, in fact, were British courage, skill, and

perseverance, more amply displayed than in the expulsion of the French from this country. Emulation seemed to animate every breast in our army; hunger, thirst, fatigue and sickness, could not for a moment make us forget the grand object which had brought us through dangerous seas and pathless deserts; and our sufferings were alleviated by the pleasing reflection, that we were acting in a good cause. As a proof that our expedition up the Red Sea, and through the Deserts, was a master-piece of military arrangement, I here subjoin an extract of a letter received by General Baird, from the Governor General of the East Indies, which by no means over-rates the talents and conduct of the former: — "I received, with particular pleasure, the details of the activity, perseverance, military skill and judgment, arranged with the army under your command, to surmount the difficulties which opposed its march through the Deserts from Cosir to Kinneh. I desire that you will communicate my thanks to Lieutenant Colonels Murray and Montresor, for their respective able and labourious exertions in promoting the public service. I request also, that you will communicate to all the officers, non-commissioned officers, from India, serving under your

command, and to the troops composing your army, the high opinion I entertain of the military order, discipline and firmness, which have distinguished their conduct, under the peculiar difficulties and hardships to which they were exposed."—On the 20th. of March, a party of us set out to view the Roman temple, about four miles westward of Alexandria. It was not without difficulty that we found it, its situation being very retired, not far from the beach. The entrance was almost overgrown with weeds; and when we went in, we found it necessary to take off our hats, coats, and waistcoats, on account of the heat. The entrance into the first apartment, was through a hole scarcely wide enough to admit the body, which conducted to another room about seven feet high, and, as near as we could judge, twenty yards long. This place was perfectly dark, but we proceeded by the light of the torches, which we brought with us, to the farther extremity of it, and found another place to creep through similar to the first; but ere we entered it, we thought it essentially necessary to have lights fastened to the wall, in order that we might be enabled to find our way back, otherwise we stood a very fair chance of remaining there. In the next apartment we saw

a number of graves, covered over nearly in the same way as they are in England. We then turned to the left in a winding descent, still observing to place lights as we went along, till we came to the temple. Here my astonishment was raised to a great pitch, by the appearance of an extensive place with a cupalo in the centre, which apparently had been handsomely finished. On each side of the cupalo, was a square room, containing a great number of bones. These places, we concluded, had been used for the purpose of offering burnt sacrifices. We now proceeded to several other apartments through holes still more difficult of access, till some of my companions began to wish themselves out. A few of us, however, determined to proceed as far as we could, till at last, to our disappointment, we found a hole so small through which we were unable to creep, and consequently were necessitated to return. As our curiosity had been whetted by the little aperture we could not get through, a young drummer was procured who entered it with a lighted torch, and found another room, wherein he could only perceive a well. This proved to be the extremity of the building; and left us at a loss to account for what could have been the

use of it.—As we were returning to the town on the sea side, we discovered some beautiful bathing houses, built of marble; the floors curiously paved with the same material, variegated with beautiful colours. At high water the baths were filled, which diffused an agreeable coolness throughout the whole. Tradition says, they were erected for *Cleopatra!* Within a hundred yards of these, to the westward, are apartments hewn in the rock on each side of a gallery, they contain *niches* to place mummies or embalmed bodies in. Proceeding further we descended into an extensive dark cave, which seemed to be about thirty feet deep, and divided by stone walls reaching within a yard of the roof. In our way home, we saw several of the same description, but not so large. Near the gate of Necropolis, are to be seen the ruins of a building called the Mosque, of a thousand and one pillars, which we were informed had been formerly a church, dedicated to St. Mark; this evangelist having resided on the spot, and nigh which it is said he was martyred. — There is also another Mosque, named *St. Athanasius*, which was formerly a flourishing primitive church, built in the most magnificent manner and skill, containing many rare pieces of antiquity.

About four leagues from Alexandria, is Aboukir, called by Europeans *Bequieres.* This place is situated on the western side of a large bay; a chain of rocks extending from it to a small island, which is near half a mile long and a furlong broad. In this island are some subterraneous passages, and the remains of a piece of carved work supposed to be a Sphinx.—The inhabitants of *Alexandria* are principally Turks and Arabs. The former pass their time in complete sloth, and appear to think of nothing more than indulging their sensual appetites. Smoking tobacco and drinking coffee, of which they are remarkably fond, occupy the greater part of their time; their attachment to tobacco is such, that there is hardly a Turk to be seen without a pipe in his mouth. These pipes are nearly six feet in length, made of a reed resembling a cane, and when they use them in a standing or sitting posture, they let the head of the pipe rest on the floor, which otherwise from their size would be troublesome and inconvenient to hold them. These people are considered to be extremely proud, ignorant and ridiculously vain, fond of pompous shew and ostentatious pageantry, which are to be seen in all their cavalcades.—The Arabs are all engaged in dif-

ferent pursuits, which allow them no time for reading; and all they know about antiquities have been acquired in their search for treasure, or in their visits to the sepulchres, to steal the mummies. for the resin or other materials, in which they were preserved. At Cairo, it is no uncommon thing to see these people hawking heads, fingers, feet, and toes, of the mummies, about the streets, with as much indifference, as if they were *tobacco-pipes!* The revengeful disposition of the Arabs is set in a very striking point of view by the relation of the following circumstance which occurred when the French army first landed in Egypt:—On the second day of their march across the Desert from Alexandria, they met a young woman, whose face was nearly covered with blood. In one hand she held an infant, and the other was stretched out to the object that might strike it. The curiosity of the troops was excited. They called their guide who also officiated as their interpreter. As they approached they heard the sighs of a being from whom the organs of sight had been torn away! Astonished and solicitous for an explanation, they interrogated her. The result of their enquiry was, that the awful circumstance was occasioned by a fit

of jealously. Its victim uttered no murmurs, but only prayers in behalf of the innocent, who partook her misfortune, and which was on the point of destruction with wretchedness and hunger. The military, struck with commisseration, and forgetting their own wants in the presence of the more pressing one of others, without any hesitation gave her a part of their allowance. They were about to bestow upon her a part of their water, though there was every probability of being in want themselves, when they beheld the furious husband approach, who, feasting his eyes at a distance with the fruits of his vengeance, had kept its victim in sight. He sprung forward, snatched from the woman's hands the bread, the water, (that last necessary of life) which pity had given to misfortune: "Stop," cried he, "she has lost her honour, she has wounded mine; this child is my shame, it is the son of guilt!" The soldiers resisted his attempt to deprive the woman of the food they had given her. His jealousy was increased at seeing the object of his fury become that of the kindness of others. He drew a dagger, and gave the woman a mortal blow; then seized the child, threw it into the air, and destroyed it by its fall: afterwards, with stupid ferocity, he stood mo-

tionless, looking stedfastly at those who surrounded him, and defying their vengeance. Enquiry was made, whether there were no prohibitory laws against such an atrocious abuse of authority. The reply was, that the man had done wrong to stab the woman, because at the end of forty days, she might have been received into a house and supported through the medium of charity."

The next place we went to examine, were the ruins of Cleopatra's Palace, which stands about five miles east from *Alexandria*. This place is rendered more remarkable by the glorious victory obtained over the French by the British army, on the 21st. of March, 1801, when the deservedly lamented Sir Ralph Abercromby received his death wound.—Near the ruins of the palace, is a small mosque, encompassed by a burying ground, at which are to be seen innumerable lines of graves, containing the bodies of British and French, who fell on that memorable day.—Peace to their manes! Close to the ruined walls we observed the following inscription on the grave of an officer:—

"To the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Peter

Duttens, of Stewart's regiment, who fell in the action of the 21st. March, 1801, at the head of the regiment."

The action which was fought on this memorable spot having been so glorious to the military prowess of British soldiers, the relation given of it by Sir Robert Wilson, cannot fail to be interesting to the reader: the particulars of which are as follows:—

"On the 21st. of March, the British army, as usual, were under arms at three o'clock in the morning; all was quiet at half-past three o'clock, when the report of a musquet was heard at the extremity of the left. Instantly afterwards a cannon fired, scattered musquetry succeeded, and then two more guns. For a moment attention was directed to that quarter. All were convinced that a general attack was commencing, but it was immediately evident, that the firing was too feeble on the left, to believe that to be the point of the enemy's serious object. Indeed this was the universal sentiment; and General Moore, who as general officer of the night, on the first alarm proceeded to the left, was so impressed with this idea, that he turned back to the right. For a few

minutes, all was still; but it was the awful suspense of anxious expectation, not of apprehension. Every eye was painfully extended forwards through the gloomy mist of the atmosphere, and the ears strained to catch the smallest sound. Occasionally the eastern horizon was anxiously regarded; but though the dawn of the morning was perceptible, it seemed reluctantly to break. On a sudden loud shouts were heard in front of the right, which fully certified the enemy's intention; a roar of musquetry immediately succeeded, and the action then became general. The enemy, covered by the unequal surface of the ground, had advanced unperceived as far as the *Videttes*, and continued to press on with them, and the retiring picquets of infantry to the main position with all possible celerity: one column directed itself upon the ruins where the 58th. was posted, the front of which was considerably more extensive than the front of the regiment; but some part of the wall still standing, it admitted of the regiment's dividing itself, but scarcely, notwithstanding, did the troops fill up the different openings. Colonel Houston, who commanded, faintly perceived the column of the enemy advancing with beat of drums and huzzas; but fearing lest the British picquets

might be preceding, he allowed it to approach so close, that the glazed hats were clearly distinguished, when he ordered the grenadiers to fire, which was followed by the whole regiment, and repeated with several rounds. These continued and well directed discharges, not only checked but made the enemy's column retire quickly into a hollow, some distance in their rear, when it shortly afterwards wheeled to the right, and endeavoured to force round the redoubt in front of its left with another column, directing its march upon the battery. The 28th. regiment stationed there, opened a heavy fire on that part of the enemy which attempted to storm the redoubt in front; but the main body of the two columns now joined to a third, forced in behind the redoubt, and whilst some remained to attack it thus in the rear, the rest penetrated into the ruins. Colonel Crowdjye, who commanded the left of the 58th., observing their advance through the openings, wheeled back two companies, and after two or three rounds of fire advanced upon the enemy with the bayonet. At this instant the 23d. regiment appeared to support, having moved for that purpose from its station, and the 42d. also advancing on the exterior side of the ruins, to cover the open-

ing on the left of the redoubt, so cut off the troops which had entered, that after a severe loss they were obliged to surrender. The 28th. regiment had presented, as well as the 58th., the extraordinary spectacle of troops fighting at the same time to the front, flanks and rear. Although thus surrounded, the 28th. regiment remained fixed to the platform of the parapet, and preserving its order continued a contest almost unexampled before this day. The advance of the 42d. relieved the 28th. for a moment from this unequal attack; but as that regiment approached the right of the redoubt, the first line of the enemy's cavalry passing by the left of the redoubt, floundering over the tents and in the holes dug in the encampment of the 28th regiment, charged *en masse*, and overwhelmed the 42d.; yet, though broken, this gallant corps was not defeated, *individually* it resisted, and the conduct of each man exalted still more the high character of the regiment. Colonel Spencer, who with the flank companies of the 40th., had taken his station in the intervals of the ruins, was for some seconds afraid to order his men to fire, lest he should destroy the 42d. so intermixed with the enemy. But the cavalry passing on, and directing itself against that

interval, he was obliged to command the firing, which stopt the cavalry's advance; yet such a feeble force must instantly have been overpowered, if at this critical moment General Stewart, with the Foreign Brigade from the second line, had not advanced in the most perfect order, and poured in such a heavy and well-directed fire that nothing could withstand it, and the enemy fled or perished. It was in the charge of the cavalry, that the gallant Sir Ralph Abercromby, always anxious to be the most forward in danger, received his mortal wound. On the first alarm he had mounted his horse, and finding that the right was seriously engaged, proceeded thither. When he came near the ruins, he dispatched his *Aides-de-Camp*, with some orders to different brigades, and whilst thus alone, some Dragoons of the French Cavalry penetrated to the spot, and he was thrown from his horse. One of them, from the tassel of his sword, supposed him to be an officer, then rode at him, and attempted to cut him down; but just as the point of the sword was falling, his natural heroism, and the energy of the moment, *so invigorated* the *veteran general*, that he *seized* the sword, and *wrested* it from the hand; at that instant the officer was bayonetted by

a soldier of the 42d. Sir Ralph Abercromby did not know the moment of his receiving the wound in the thigh, but complained severely of the contusion in his breast, supposed to be given by the hilt of the sword in the scuffle. Sir Sydney Smith was the first officer who came to Sir Ralph, and who, by an accident, had broke his own sword, which Sir Ralph observing, he instantly presented to him the one he had so gloriously acquired. This sword Sir Sydney means to place on his monument. A singular circumstance happened almost immediately afterwards, Major Hall, aide-de-camp to General Craddock, whilst going with orders had his horse killed from under him; seeing Sir Sydney, he begged to mount his orderly man's horse; as Sir Sydney was turning round to bid him give it to Major Hall, a cannon ball struck off the Dragoon's head. This, exclaimed Sir Sydney, is destiny, the horse, Major Hall is your's.

Sir Ralph, as the cavalry was by this time repulsed, walked to the redoubt on the right of the Guards, from which he could command a view of the whole field of battle. The French although driven out of the camp, by no means gave up the

contest on the right. A second charge of cavalry was attempted by their reserve against the foreign brigade, but completely failed; after this their infantry did not keep any longer in a body, but acted *en tirailleur*, except that a battalion maintained still a little *flêche* in front of the redoubt, on each flank of which Republican colours were planted. The ammunition of the British was by this time totally exhausted, and the regiments of the reserve were obliged to remain without firing a shot, some not having one round left, and for a time there was only one cartouch for the guns in the battery. Whilst such was the state of the contest on the right, the attack on the centre had also continued. As soon as day dawned, a column of grenadiers had advanced, supported by a heavy line of infantry, to the assault of this part of the position: The Guards posted there at first threw out their flankers to oppose them, but these being driven in, when the column approached very near, General Ludlow directed the brigade to fire, which they did with the greatest precision. The French General seeing the *echellon* formation, had advanced to turn the left flank of the Guards, but the officer commanding there instantly wheeled back some com-

panies, which checked their movement, and the advance of General Coote, with his brigade, compelled them to retreat. Finding this effort ineffectual, they then dispersed as sharp-shooters, and kept up a very destructive fire, at the same time that the French cannon played incessantly. The left of the British was never seriously engaged; it was only exposed to partial musquetry, and a distant cannonade. The French on the right, during the want of ammunition amongst the British, had attempted to approach again close to the redoubt, and some of them also having exhausted theirs, absolutely pelted stones from the ditch at the 28th., who returned these unusual yet not altogether harmless instruments of violence, as a serjeant of the 28th. was killed by one breaking through his forehead; but the grenadier company of the 40th. moving out, the assailants ran away, the sharp-shooters in front left the hollows they were covered by, and the battalion also evacuated the *flêche*. At length *General Menou* finding that every one of his movements had failed, and that the British lines had suffered no serious impression to justify the hopes on an eventual success, determined on a retreat. His lines retired in very good order under

the heights of their position; but fortunately for them, there was such a want on the part of the British of ammunition, otherwise the slaughter would have been double; as the ground they had to pass over presented a glacis for the farthest range of shot. As it was, the cannon on the left did much execution, and also the King's Cutters on the right, which had during the whole action most gallantly remained in their station, although exposed to a body of the enemy within half musquet shot, expressly firing at them, and who had the advantage of a considerable elevation. A corps of French cavalry, posted at the bridge on the canal of Alexandria, to protect the right flanks of their lines, and to prevent a movement from the British left, deserves equally to be mentioned for the steadiness with which it maintained its ground, although the shot plunged constantly into the ranks. At about ten, A. M. the action ceased; but it was not till the defeat of the French was thus absolutely assured, that Sir Ralph Abercromby, who had remained in the battery, where several times he had nearly been killed by cannon shot, could be prevailed upon to quit the field. He had continued walking about, paying no attention to his wound,

only occasionally complaining of a pain in his breast from the contusion. Officers who went to him in the course of the action, returned without knowing from his manner or appearance that he had been wounded, and many only ascertained it by seeing the blood trickling down his clothes. At last his spirit, when exertion was no longer necessary, yielded to nature; he became faint, was placed in a hammock, and borne to the *depôt*, cheered by the feeling expressions and blessings of the soldiers as he passed; he was then put into a boat, accompanied by his *aide-de-camp* and esteemed friend, Sir Thomas Dyer, and carried to Lord Keith's ship.—When the French army had totally withdrawn, the attention of the British was directed to those miserably wounded men who were left on the field of battle; and the spectacle from the contractedness of the ground of action, was peculiarly distressing.

Those who have never seen such a sight, must not suppose the effect of this scene altogether consists in the groans and lamentations of the dying: no, it is the gallant resolution with which these acute and terrible sufferings are borne, the energy of the soul

subduing the violence of bodily pain; the character of the soldier supported in these last moments, which excite the feelings, and annihilate the rage of hostility. During the action several explosions were heard and seen in different parts of the field. They were now found to have been occasioned by the blowing up of tumbrils, set on fire by the British shells: on the ground were found about 1700 French killed or wounded, 1040 of whom were buried in the course of two days in the field of battle. If the calculation be carried on in the general proportion of wounded to killed, the enemy's loss would appear to have been very considerable indeed; but, the number, including the prisoners, at the fairest estimation, amounted to about 4000 men, amongst which were most of their principal officers, killed or wounded. *General Roiz*, lay dead in rear of the redoubt on the right, in his pockets were found the order for the attack, and a letter from *General Menou*, of an interesting nature. Two pieces of cannon were abandoned, one of them an Austrian eight pounder was lying within four yards of the redoubt, the four fine horses killed which drew it, and several artillerymen. It seems that a discharge of grape from the twenty-four pounder had effected

this, when the French during the darkness had brought up the gun by accident in front of the battery, four hundred horses were also lying on the field, most of them on the left of the ruins. In this battle the French standard was taken. The 42d. regiment and a private of the *Minorca*, by name *Anthony Lutz*, claim equally the trophy. Major Stirling first obtained possession of it, when the 42d. so gallantly advanced to relieve the 28th. and 58th., this officer gave it to the care of Serjeant Sinclair, who in the subsequent charge of the French cavalry lost it. When the *Minorca* regt. advanced to relieve the 42d. and routed the enemy, the French had recovered the colours; but *Lutz* perceiving the standard, advanced from the ranks, and fired at the officer who was carrying it; and who was some way behind his men. The officer fell, and *Lutz* seizing the standard, re-loaded his piece, and was proceeding to join his regiment when two Dragoons rode at him. He fired and killed the horse of one, then rushed upon the rider, whose foot was entangled in the stirrup; but the man begging his life and surrendering his arms, *Lutz* granted him quarter, and carried the prisoner with the colours to his officer Lieutenant *Markoff*, who ordered him

to head quarters, where he received the regulated reward, viz. twenty dollars. The loss of the British was six officers and two hundred and thirty-three men killed; sixty officers, eleven hundred and ninety men wounded; three officers, twenty-nine men missing. The British tents were torn to pieces by the shot, and thousands of brass cannon balls were glistening in the sand. Several servants had been killed in the tents, and many miraculous escapes of the sick lying in them are to be told. When the conduct of all were so distinguished, it is difficult to particularize merit; but it would manifest ignorance or prejudice not to speak of *General Moore*, with those sentiments of admiration which the whole army felt and expressed. His exertions, personal courage, and ability, contributed much to the success of the day, and enhanced that character which his former brilliant services acquired him. Wounded early in the action through the leg, he refused to quit the field, and continued in an activity almost beyond belief, when the nature of such a wound is considered. This officer was wounded *three times* before he left the field, when our army was in Holland. Every where he has gained the admiration of the army, exalted the honour of his country, and

given pledges of his being one day ranked amongst the most illustrious officers of the age." His subsequent services, particularly in *Spain*, have *fully* verifyed this prediction, and the British nation have to lament the loss of an officer, who was, *at once*, an honour to his country, and an ornament to his profession. "The conduct of Brigadier General Oakes, was equally meritorious, and although severely wounded in the morning, still remained on the field. To General Stewart's movement the army was much indebted, as it certainly decided the action. Colonel Spencer's conduct was consistent with that which gained him in Holland a fame, never to be obliterated or out-rivalled. General Ludlow's coolness and disposition preserved the centre, until General Coote's movement; in short, whenever opportunity presented itself, every thing was done which gallantry, zeal and ability could perform. Sir Sydney Smith, wounded early, was always in the hottest fire, and most active in rendering every assistance. The Captains of the navy on shore, commanding the Artillery in the great battery, exerted themselves to the utmost; and the sailors, who could be spared, were of the greatest service in carrying up the ammunition wherever

wanted. Some Turks were also employed on this service, but unacquainted with cannon shot, they could never advance above ten paces at a time without dropping it to crouch from the balls. Yet this was not a deficiency of courage in them, but of habit and discipline. The conduct of the troops cannot but excite wonder in military men, of whatever nation they may be. Surrounded, partly broken, without ammunition, still to continue the contest, and remain conquerors, is an extraordinary instance of intrepidity, discipline, and inherent conduct. The British service may not only pride itself on that day for the battle gained, but as it serves for the ground-work of future glory, and if its details are properly impressed, must universally diffuse instruction and confidence in danger."

—On the morning of the 29th. the death of Sir Ralph Abercromby was known; he had borne painful operations with the greatest firmness, but the ball could not be extracted. At length a mortification ensued, and he died in the evening of the 28th. having always expressed the greatest solicitude for the army, and irritating his mind from the first moment with the anxiety to resume the command. His loss was a severe one; his death

universally mourned; he was beloved by the troops for his kindness and attention to their welfare, and his courage was their pride and example. His age, combined with his services, exertions, and manners, rendered him an object of enthusiastic admiration, but every eulogium is unworthy of his fame, except conveyed in the pathetic and elegant sentiments of his friend and successor, "Were it permitted for a soldier to regret any one who bas fallen in the service of his country, I might be excused for lamenting him more than any other person, but it is some consolation to those who tenderly loved him, that as his life was honourable, so was his death glorious. His memory will be recorded in the annals of his country, will be sacred to every British soldier, and embalmed in the recollection of a grateful posterity."

The walls of Cleopatra's palace are situated within 300 yards of the sea, and its grand front seems to have been towards Rosetto. From the appearance of the ruins it cannot be doubted that the building was large, and finished in the most magnificent style of ancient architecture. After having explored these memorable ruins and the adjacent

plain where the battle was fought, we sat down and refreshed ourselves and then returned to Alexandria with feelings better to be conceived than described.—As to the religion of the Mahometans of Egypt, there is a similarity to that of the Turks. The Moors and Arabs certainly make up the bulk of the people; and it is observed, that they are much more superstitious and zealous in their manners than the Mahometans of Turkey. They have priests denominated Santos, or Puritans, among them for whom they express a very great reverence; but the Turks hate and despise these characters. Many of these Santos go through the streets in a state of nudity, without the least covering, suffering their hair to grow to an unreasonable length; in this condition they visit the habitations of people of respectability, and have the audacity to sit down to dinner with them without any invitation whatever, and leave their houses with as little ceremony as they entered; this is looked upon by the superstitious, as no small blessing to be thus favoured with a visit from these people. Such are the effects of blind superstition in people not illumined by the radiant rays of divine grace, and who have never drank of that living water which flows from the

pure fountain of truth. How awful is the reflection, that this nation once so highly favoured with the Gospel, is now, generally speaking, enveloped in gross darkness and idolatry. Tradition informs us, that St. Mark planted Christianity here, and was the first Bishop of Alexandria, then the Metropolis of Egypt, and who afterwards sealed the truths he propagated, with his blood.

Since the Ottoman Emperors have had the dominion of this country, they have invariably governed it by a Viceroy, called the Bassa of Grand Cairo; but as Egypt is apportioned into different principalities, the Princes' whereof are sovereigns in their respective territories, the Bassa transacting nothing without their concurrence. Nor durst the Turkish government overload the Egyptians with taxes, for fear of a general revolution; insomuch, that except what the Viceroy and his people illegally extort from them, the sum raised by the government seldom amounts to a million of our money, of which two-thirds are spent within the kingdom, and not more than one-third comes into the Grand Seignior's treasury.

As I wish my account of *Alexandría* to be as perfect and particular as possible, to correspond in some degree with that of *Grand Cairo*, I give the reader in addition to my own personal observations, those of that intelligent traveller (Ali Bey) a great deal of which relates to the ancient state of this once famous city: —— "The geographical position of *Alexandria*, (says Ali Bey) is fixed on the astronomical tables of the year 1806, in Lat. 31° 13′ 5″ N., and its longitude 27° 35′ 30″ E. from the observatory of Paris. It is known that ancient *Alexandria*, one of the greatest depots of commerce, was the seat of the Court of Egypt, and an immense city, which contained more than a million inhabitants; (therefore as large as London) its custom-house, in those times of opulence, produced an enormous revenue, equal to sixty or sixty-five millions of francs, which sum according to the present depreciation of money, may be estimated at a hundred times its value; or equal to a thousand millions at this time. It produces now no more than about five hundred thousand francs. At the epoch of the conquest of the country, by the Arabs, Historians relate, that this city contained four thousand palaces, as many public baths, four hundred

markets, and 40,000 tributary Jews: (this was in the time of Caliph Omar) they no longer exist. The spots which all these edifices covered, are hardly known. All this magnificence is fled, as well as the sacred character it held, as depicted in Scripture History. The plantations, gardens, and orchards, with which the environs of the city were adorned, and which were innumerable, are alike extinct, and a sandy moving desert, quite sterile, encompasses it at this time. In a word, this fine daughter of the Great Alexander, this opulent Court of Ptolemy, this delightful abode of Cleopatra, is only the shadow of its past greatness. An immense accumulation of ruins, which are for the most part buried in the sands, upon a surface of several leagues. Pompey's Pillar, the Needles, and palace of Cleopatra, the Cisterns, the Catacombs, and some columns, entire or broken, scattered here and there, are the sad remains of this once rich, splendid, and famous city. A space of about three leagues, surrounded by broad and high walls, with towers almost in ruins, filled with the wrecks of houses, is what remains of the middle age, or of the second period of this city, when it passed under the dominion of Mahometanism. A city containing

near 5,000 inhabitants, of all colours, nations, and sects, established upon a little tongue of land, running out into the sea, which has no other means of subsistence than the feeble resources of a languishing commerce, and to increase its misfortune, lost this year, (1807) the only drinkable water it had; such is the state of the modern *Alexandria.* The streets of the present town are tolerably regular, and some are narrow, others are much wider, with pavements on the sides for foot passengers. The Franks-street, is a good street, and is not the only good one in *Alexandría.* The ground, though unpaved, is nevertheless very convenient for foot passengers; it is composed of lime and sand, of a good consistence. The houses have many windows, covered it is true by blinds, which however give a a pretty aspect to the exterior of the house, and enough of light and air in the interior. The public markets are as well supplied as most in Africa, with various kinds of meat, fresh and dried fruits, vegetables, herbs, fowls, game, fish in abundance, very good bread, eggs, and milk. All this is brought in little boats from *Rosetto*, *Lower Egypt*, the borders of *Syria*, the *Archipelago*, &c.—Flat roofs to the houses prevail here, as in all coun-

tries where little rain falls, and the stair-cases, even of large houses, are very narrow. At the entrance of the apartments there is generally a partition of wood, with closets, forming a sort of cabinet in the upper part, with small railings, and blinds round the room; about seven feet high is a specie of shelf, about a foot broad, upon which they place books, and other things; under this is placed a stage half a foot high, and three feet broad, that extends about quarter of the length of the room on both sides; this stage is covered with a mattress, with a row of large cushions placed upright against the wall; this is the Turkish sofa, which is called in the country Drivan. A great number of the houses have cisterns, but as there seldom falls any rain, they are obliged to fill them with water from the Nile, which is brought upon the backs of camels, at the time of the inundations of that river. The markets are covered with awnings, made of reeds or mats, completely impervious to the sun's rays. With the exception of the great Mosque, and that of St. Sidi Abulabbas, the patron of the city, there are none worth mentioning, and the ground floor of the greater part of the mosques contains shops, store-houses, and dwellings. Their form of worship is

as under :—Several singers recite some verses in the choir, an old man afterwards walks to the foot of the preacher's pulpit, and takes in his hand a sort of cross, or long stick, and turning towards the people, says in a nasal trembling tone, Allahou ak i bar, which he repeats, and the choristers sing the same words, after which the old man continues the whole form of the call, which the former repeats verse after verse in singing. At length the old man in a low voice repeats a sentence from the Koran, in which the prayer is recommended, then laying aside his stick he goes away and the man begins his sermon. The mosques are not richly endowed, and their ministers have very small incomes; but they are aided by voluntary contributions. The ancient magnificent mosques, of which some travellers speak, no longer exist: Time, the Turks, and the late wars, have annihilated them. The grand Sarcophagus, also covered with hierogliphics, is sent to England. The provisions of Alexandria are of good quality, but the stagnated water in the cisterns produce towards the end of the year an innumerable swarm of insects. which obliges them to filter it. They make use of asses to go from one part of the town to another, of so small a size, that

the legs of the rider nearly touch the ground, but they trot with great swiftness, carrying their rider and a heavy burthen, at the rate of a post horse: Their leaders are on foot, and with difficulty keep up with them, which is often a source of amusement to the spectators: These animals measure from 35 to 40 French inches in height, are as serviceable as a horse in many respects, and costs very little keeping. The horses sold in Alexandria are from the breeds of Arabia, Syria, and Africa; few of them are good, and they are sold very dear; the stirrups are very large, and the angles serve for a spur; and when the rider alights, the servant invariably walks the horse about for half an hour: They have footmen, called Laiz, to be hired for the moment, and who precede the horsemen on foot, with a stick seven or eight feet long, painted red or green; which he holds perpendicularly in his hand. They have no schools of science, and writing is reduced to the most rude forms: Those who wish to study go to Cairo. The Scheiks give lectures in the principal mosques: He seats himself in the centre of the buildings, and his auditors form a circle at a distance round him; on the ground a candle is placed on a low table, and opposite the Scheik a Reader

with papers in his hand: The Reader reads a verse, generally a Commentary on the Koran, from which the Scheik lectures, speaking affectedly, to impress the idea of inspiration; and now and then he introduces facetious sallies, and bon-mots. On the 27th day of the month, they celebrate the ascension of the holy Prophet, when they make a long harangue, and illuminate the mosque with variegated lamps, which has a fine effect. The ground about Alexandria is covered with deep sand, which has entirely hid many of its most beautiful antiquity's, particularly the magnificent ruin call'd the Mosque with a Thousand Pillars. This sand is blown from the shore with the east winds, and increases continually. A great number of massy columns, and other remains of ancient grandeur, had been collected by Europeans, and brought to the sea shore to be shipped for their different country's; but the commander of a Turkish fleet being in the port, and not finding good landing, he ordered a pier to be made of them, by throwing them into the sea. One of the needles of Cleopatra however escaped him, for it is on its way to England as a present to George IV. from the Pacha of Egypt: It weighs 200 tons, and is seven feet diameter at the pedestal: It has been ob-

tained through the influence of our Consul at Grand Cairo, and is to be erected on Waterloo place, opposite Carlton House. The whole ground in this country contains Grottos, Catacombs, and other subterraneous Buildings, and you cannot move a step where they are not to be found: They are most of them of very difficult access, dark, and hot in the inside. Wild Beasts bring their prey to devour in them, and they are the receptacles of nocturnal flies, toads, &c. Such are the edifices, which the pride of man prepared to deposit, and preserve his mortal remains in; but the bodies no longer remain, they are gone to the dust from whence they originated; an additional proof to the thousands of others, of man's insignificancy, and that every thing in this world is vain and transitory. Alexandria is nearly surrounded by the Mediterranean on the north, and the lake Maretis on the south; but its lakes, canal, &c. are much injured, and indeed nearly destroyed, both by the contending armies of England and France, and the natural laziness of the inhabitants, who suffer every thing to go to decay. Water is found more or less briny, under the sands, and on this account plantations of figs, palm-trees, and melons, can be cultivated. There are a great many Chakals, and

Lizards, and an astonishing number of a pretty little animal called Gerboa; but these are generally in the Desert. The confused mixture of all nations which compose the inhabitants of Alexandria, render it a modern Babel, and the children learn imperfectly three or four languages at the same time without any master. The Jews carry on a trade with Leghorn; and though the inhabitants are few, there are of many religions. The dress generally is the long eastern robe, with trowsers, &c., except the Europeans, who dress in their own country's, live by themselves, have houses of their own, and are altogether isolated from the Mahometan inhabitants, but well treated by them: They are called Franks. The circumcision of children, weddings, &c., is all treated with great rejoicings, singing, shouting, screaming, and instrumental music, consisting of the psaltry, viol, hautboy, horn and kettle drums. —— It is singular, that though the commerce of Alexandria is still pretty considerable, that there is no regular establishment for the conveyance of letters: Correspondence is carried on in a strange and ridiculous manner. The owners of little vessels from Smyrna, Constantinople, and other places, take charge of the letters for Alexan-

dria voluntarily, or upon private speculation; upon their arrival they run through the streets with them, or from house to house, tied up in a handkerchief, or little bag. It often happens, that in undoing the parcel some of the letters fall in the streets, and are lost. Persons who expect letters, and many who do not, stop the bearer in his course to examine the bag; as the latter seldom knows how to read or write, he permits them to be toss'd about, and thus unknown persons get possession of the correspondence of the city; by pretending to look for letters addressed to themselves; they select such as they think may suit them; get possession of them by paying a trifling gratuity, and take them home, to violate the secrets of individuals, or perhaps the public faith. It is shocking to see the honour, and fortune of individuals, as also the political interests of different nations, who have consuls at Alexandria, exposed in this way. Although the climate of Alexandria is hot, yet the sun in summer is much alleviated by the N. W. or sea winds, which blow continually, and maintain a temperate atmosphere in the shade.

As many of my readers may have formed

erroneous conceptions of the religion of Mahomet, and which I had in some degree done myself, I have extracted a very copious account of this profession from the work of Ali Bey, which if true, and I have no reason to doubt it, as it seems written with great candour, must remove at least some of the prejudices generally entertained against this system, and its first promulgator. It will be seen, (not entering into argument on the divine legation of Mahomet, which Ali Bey very properly observes, Mussulmen believe, and Christians disbelieve, and upon which I have given my opinion very freely in another part of this work) that the Mahometans believe in the unity of God, and in certain portions of Scripture, but which they say is mutulated and interpolated in our translation: They say, that Christ was the Spirit of the most High, that he was born of a virgin, (as such they admit the miraculous conception) and that he ascended into heaven: But they do not believe in his death, and consequently not in the atonement. I, for one, shall therefore say, that this (though it might do away with a worse system, *viz.* the worship of images) is still a religion of man's invention, and is not built on, or supported by the Scriptures. I know that much argu-

ment has been used on both sides the question, and many learned, and I trust well meaning men, have tried to prove from Holy Writ, the unity, and indivisibility of the Supreme Being. But I cannot admit this principle, nor could I be happy, unless I had a refuge to fly to, even that stronghold Christ Jesus, whom to know is life eternal, and whom the sinner is instructed to seek, that he may be ransomed, and redeemed from his iniquities. It is no light matter, but on the contrary, a thing of most serious moment, that we should clearly understand, and be properly impressed with the importance and greatness of this love of God, which taketh away the sins of the world: That he gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to us and for us, that he might redeem us from the sins of our fallen nature in Adam, and make us a peculiar people, zealous of good works: Not that we might merely attempt our salvation by an imitation of the virtues of our great Law Giver, but that by a holy, humble and constant reliance on him, we may be convinced that we have received the unction of his holy and divine spirit, and by his mediatorial power be made fit to inherit eternal life; that when it may please the Great Author of our existence, to call us from this

vain and transitory world, to that which is beyond the grave, we may have his strong arm to rest upon, and be assured, (that through his merits alone, and the mercies of his eternal father, who suffered him to become a propitiatory sacrifice for the whole world) we are saved, with an everlasting salvation: And that we have a house, and refuge, not built with hands, eternal in the heavens, whose builder and maker is the Lord Almighty.

The Mahometan Religion, and the history of its Prophet, have been often described both in a proper and in a very improper manner, by writers of all nations, but as I write for persons of all religions, and all country's, I shall give an impartial sketch of a religion, and a legislator, (Mahomet) who has drawn into his system one-fifth of the population of the globe.—(Says Ali Bey) Mahomet was born at Mecca, in the year 578 of the Christian æra; he was an orphan from his infancy, and was brought up by an uncle; his good conduct gained him the esteem of his fellow citizens, and procured him a situation in the service of a rich widow, who smitten with his fine coun-

tenance, married him: He carried on a trade like other Arabians, with camels, &c., and acquired a knowledge of the nations who lived around him. He was a man of talent and sound judgment, much improved by travelling, which, ripened by retirement, enabled him to form great conceptions. The first sheet of the Koran appeared in the 40th year of his age: Mussulmen say, it was brought him by an angel from heaven. Christians say, it was not. In this place we will not dispute this point. He first intrusted his revelations only to his nearest and dearest friends, and he was believed on his word; he afterwards made it public in an assembly of the chief members of his tribe, the most illustrious in all Mecca: They had not all of them faith in him; for a schism arose amongst his nearest relations. The inhabitants of Mecca were idolaters; it was therefore not unnatural, that a man, who suggested to their reason the sublime idea of one eternal immense Almighty, should attract round him a party. But at the same time the temple of Mecca was filled with idols, which the surrounding nations came to worship, and the priests feared to lose their patrimony, if the idols were destroyed, they were therefore interested in opposing the dogmas of Ma-

homet. The prophet began to preach, and made proselytes, and the priests assembled and resolved on his ruin; and in the fifty-third year of his age he was forced to fly from his country, on the very day on which he was to have been assasinated: He quitted Mecca with two friends only, and from this famous night they date their æra. He repaired to Medina, where he made many proselytes, settled there, supported his mission by force of arms, and was successful in his enterprizes. After many battles Mecca became subject to him, and he made his entry there as a conqueror, at the head of ten thousand men, in the year 8, or 22 Janʸ. 639. He threw down the idols and statues which were worshiped, and cleansing it from their fragments, instituted the religion of the one invisible deity. He extended his dominions over the neighbouring countries, pretended to immediate inspiration, and communicated the divine will as he thought necessary. In this manner Mahometanism was diffused and consolidated till the time of his death, which took place at Medina, in the 641 year of Christ, and in the sixty-third year of his age: he was buried in an open grave, in his own house, without a coffin, and the house was afterwards converted into a Temple. Thus it

seems, Mahomet was not only the founder of a religion, but he was a temporal Prince, and a soldier of no mean eminence. As he left no male issue, and did not himself dispose of the supreme dignity, his uncle Abubeker ascended the throne, and adopted the title of Lieutenant to the Prophet. This dominion successively passed over to various dynasties, and it was during the reign of some of the first Khaliffes, that the arts and sciences were much encouraged, and the religion of Mahomet extended from the frontiers of China, to the straits of Gibralter, with a rapidity so astonishing, that it cannot be compared to the progress of any other known religion. Notwithstanding this brilliant career, Mahometanism has been, and is still much divided. The Persians rejected the three first Khaliffes, and admitted Ali alone as successor to Mahomet; this caused many bloody wars, and has occasioned the Persians to be deemed Hereticks. The ambition of warring adventurers, and false prophets succeeded in tearing to pieces this colossal Empire; a number of chiefs made themselves independent, and the Khaliffate disappeared. The Mahometan religion is extremely simple: it has no mysteries; no sacraments; no intermediate persons between God and

man, known by the name of priests, or ministers; no altars, images, or ornaments. God is invisible, the heart of man is his altar, and every Mussulman his own high priest. According to the canonical tradition, the Prophet has declared the essence of his religion to consist of five fundamentals, *viz.* That there is no God but one, and that Mahomet is his Messenger; the saying of prayers; giving of alms; fasting on Ramadan, and making a pilgrimage to the house of God, which is now a days done generally by proxy. Notwithstanding its simplicity, there is not, perhaps a religion in the world which has had so many commentators, expositors, and writers. The Mahometans use frequent ablutions, or washings, which is done in a variety of ways; and every Mussulman must say his prayers five times a-day. As a specimen, I give one of their prayers, and its language is certainly no disgrace to them. "Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds, the most merciful, the most gracious King of the day of Judgment; we adore thee, and implore thy assistance; direct us the right way, the way of those whom thou hast distinguished with thy kindness; of those who are free from corruption, and who are not within the number of those that go

astray. Amen." Besides the belief of the existence of one almighty God, faith in the mission of the prophet, and the obligation of saying the canonical prayers, it is necessary to observe the precept of giving alms. This precept comprises the charitable tithes, the paschal alms, the paschal sacrifice, the donations of a pious nature, and the eventual alms of charity. The charitable tithes are equal to two and a half per cent every year, on all that a Mussulman possesses, except sheep and goats, for which only one per cent is paid. These alms are given to the poor: but they are paid generously, and without a critical calculation, as every heart sensible to the misfortunes of the poor, contributes in a proportion, much beyond that fixed by the law. The paschal alms are those which every Mussulman in good circumstances is obliged to give, before sun rise to the poor, the first day of Easter: It consists of half a measure of wheat or flour, or a whole measure of barley or oats. Heads of family's are obliged to give for every member of their family as much as for themselves, either in kind or money. The paschal sacrifice consists in a sheep or a camel, which must be killed by every respectable housekeeper with his own hand; he must eat a part of

it, and give at least one-third part of it to the poor. Such sacrifices are repeated on important occasions, such as recovery from illness, taking long journey's, &c. They have many pious foundations, such as mosques, fountains, hospitals, places of rest for travellers, schools, &c., founded by opulent individuals. The acts of common charity, or casual alms, which in other religions are only recommended, are almost of imperious obligation on a Mussulman: He dares not sit down to dinner without inviting those who are near to him to partake of it, of whatever condition, or religion they may be; and he cannot refuse assistance to any poor person who may apply to him if he have the means. The hospitality which he is to exercise towards every one who claims it, without regard to his religion, is a consequence of the same principle. Fasting in the month of Ramadan, is the fourth sacred principle, it consists in strict abstinence for thirty days, from dawn of day to sun set; at these times they eat and drink what they please during the night; and conscientious persons recite prayers, are more abundantly charitable, and forget and forgive all private feuds. During this time the mosques are illuminated at nights, and the shops, and coffee-

houses kept open. Rich people hardly feel the fast of the Ramadan, because they sleep all day, and eat and drink all night; but to the poor it is a real penance, as they have to get their living by their daily labour. This fast is so strictly observed, that to break it in the presence of witnesses, is deemed worthy of death as an infidel. It has already been observed, that the Mahometans, properly speaking, have no priests; those who are so employed have no distinguishing character from other citizens; they marry, they work, pay taxes, &c. These men are all equal before the Creator, and there are no reserved or priviledged places in their temples. Virtue and vice are the only circumstances by which man may approach the Deity, or be alienated from him. They have no sacred days, but the birth day of the prophet, and Easter. On Friday's they work as on other days, till an hour before noon, when they leave their business to make their ablutions, and say their prayers; they then return again to business. The word Ismalism, or Mahometism, means abandoning one's self to God: And it is on this great basis that their religion is founded. The belief in the missions of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, (partially) and other ancient pro-

phets, is an indispensable introduction to Ismalism; therefore a Jew cannot be admitted amongst them. They believe Christ to be the Spirit of God, and Son of a Virgin; but they fancy the Gospel, which is in the hands of the Christians, has been vitiated, and tainted by interpolations. They deny the death of Christ, who according to the Koran ascended into heaven, without having suffered on the cross. The Trinity and the Euchrist, they look upon as pure idolatry. The worship of images is shocking to them, and confession and indulgencies, matters of mere speculation. Unhappily, superstitions have been introduced into Ismalism, and is much deplored by every Mahometan philosopher. The exterior ceremonies have got the better of the spirit of their religion, so that the Mussulman who daily performs the number of prostrations and rikats prescribed by the law, is looked upon as a good Mussulman, whatever be his morality: He will even be raised to the dignity of a saint if he goes so far as to exceed the number of prayers, and fasts commanded by their religion, though his behaviour should be that of a reprobate, as I have known many of them. The veneration of the sepulchres of the saints have some useful results; because these chapels serve

as asylums for innocence against the attempts of despotism; but, they unfortunately also yield a shelter to criminals, who ought to be driven from society. The veneration for the insane is also very charitable, as it serves to protect their miserable existence, but it gives rise to numberless actions which are contrary to public morality. The saffis, or talisman's relicks, chaplets, repeaters of prayers for the sick, or things lost, &c., are all pious cheats, which tarnish the pure deism of Mahomet. But every worship on earth has been affected by the cupidity of Charlatans, or by the timid imbecility of the people: Fortunately in this country, such troops of monks, that is of Dervises, are not to be met with, (speaking of Morocco) as are seen all over Tartary."

We will here remark, that, unhappily, (Ali Bey acknowledges) that exterior ceremonies have got the better of the spirit of religion, so that the Mussulman, who daily performs the number of prostrations, and rikats prescribed by the law, is looked upon as a good Mussulman, whatever be his morality; he will even be raised to the dignity of a saint, if he goes so far as to exceed the number of prayers and

fasts commanded by his religion, though his behaviour should be that of a reprobate. This is a prevailing evil in most religions, where much exterior ceremony exists: It is true that exterior ceremonies are impressive at the moment, they tickle the ear, please the eye, and amuse the fancy, but they do not always enlarge, and improve the heart; so that they may be said not to possess the main purposes for which the ordinances of God were instituted. We know it to be the case in this country, that the professors, and in some instances, the rigid adherers to the outward forms of religion, are not always the best men; but, frequently relying too much upon the mere type and figure of religion, forget and neglect its essence: it was this departure from principle, and reliance on shadow, that first produced dissenters of almost all denominations, from the national establishments of the different countries they inhabited. Conscientious, tender minded, reasoning, and considerate men became disgusted, in some instances, with the hypocrisy, and immorality of the leaders, who they saw preached Christ, but did not practice him; and in other cases, they saw the Church in which they were brought up, loaded with unnecessary, and in

some instances, impious dogmas, which they could not comply with, entertaining such hopes of salvation in a future state, as all good men possess: this, therefore produced divisions, and seceders, some of whom became preachers, made proselytes, and established sects; freed, as they thought, of the impurities, which from lapse of time, from money making and licentious priests, false readings of scripture, numerous symbols, and dogmas, set forms of prayers, and universal reverence paid rather to ceremonies, than to the life and spirit of religion, had crept into the old establishments. It was these things in particular, that made Quakers, Methodists, Calvanists, Baptists, Moravians, and others, I trust, conscientious christians; who, though they may differ much in their modes of worship, yet have the same thing in view, *viz.* to establish the spiritual kingdom of Christ upon earth; to preach practical morality and salvation through him, (and him alone) who so repeatedly declares, that the repentant sinner, (and of course the amended sinner) shall receive mercy at his hand.* I say it was these impurities

* The Author begs leave to observe here, that he by no means entertains the least prejudice, against the Established Church of this highly distinguished Nation; but on the contrary, that he with pleasure can subscribe to her creed; and ever hopes to honour and revere, all her *faithful ministers.*

that made dissenters, and it is much, the same cause does not produce the same effect in Mahometan countries; because it is evident there are thoughtful and pious persons amongst them, (and I should rather suppose they are restrained by severe and imperious laws) and seeing that they inhabit the very country where the christian religion was first, promulged, it seems very extraordinary that they have not retained more of its essence, and particularly that consolatory reliance upon the Saviour of mankind, which has so often softened the dying pillow of the true believer in the mission of Christ, in all country's where Christianity is predominant. Mahomet himself must be allowed in some degree to have been a reformer, however he might be an impostor in other things; for he destroyed and indeed annihilated paganism, or the worship of images, and instituted the worship of an Almighty and invisible God in its stead, over an immense portion of the globe: It will likewise be seen, that the Mahometans believe in certain portions of our sacred history, and that it is even an indispensible requisite in a Mussulman, or believer in Mahometanism, to accredit the mission of the ancient Patriarchs and Prophets, as well as Christ partially; they disbelieve

the atonement, and that he died and rose again; and a Jew, can on no account be admitted among them, because of his unbelief. The excellent dispositions they seem to manifest too as to their poorer brethren, their extensive and unostentatious charities, the truly brotherly love of the opulent for the indigent, who cannot even sit down to a meal without inviting all persons on the spot to sit down with them, of whatever religion, or country they may be, must excite our admiration of this part of their character: and almost make us spontaneously exclaim, Oh that these people, were not only almost, but altogether Christians. That we find amiable, and even exalted characters amongst Mahometans, Jews and even Pagans, and that in some things they may set examples worthy of imitation to Christians, does by no means disparage the Christian religion, but rather reflects on those who act hostile to their principles: Because the Christian code has not only stood the test of ages, but has been allowed by all critics and learned men, to be the quintessence of purity; and that the wisdom of man, can neither add too, nor diminish it, without injuring the structure, which Christ hath erected for the salvation of those who seek him, in integrity, and purity of

heart: It is also remarkable, and I think no small encomium to the religion of Jesus, that the greatest infidels that ever lived, Voltaire and Paine, amongst the number, cried out on their death beds for the salvation of Christ: For forgivness of their sins, and redemption through his blood. I have heard it argued that this was no proof of conviction on their minds, and that it added no laurels to Christianity, because men's minds in a dying state are frequently so weak, and their heads so delirious, that they may be considered as insane. No doubt this is sometimes the case, but I rather think that with these men, fear and condemnation were the predominant feelings, and which operated so powerfully as to drive them to an expedient, which in their healthy days, they took much pains to make the world believe was a fable. The Christians sheet anchor, therefore, the infidel flies to as a last hope, when the ship is distressed and nearly cast away; like a thoughtless mariner, who never prays but in a storm, they seek that refuge, which instead of having been their leading star through life, (when health and length of days were before them) was their laughing stock, jest, and derision. That such men might find mercy at this awful moment is

what every good man must wish; but at the same time it is an awful thing to have an anchor and cable to seek, when the battered hulk of the worn out vessel is every moment ready to founder, and be cast on an eternal and immutable shore, where all the art and subtlety of man is of no avail to bring back, or rebuild it again. He that leaves till this moment, the vast concerns of an eternal world, can in no sense of the word be called a wise man, but may be truly likened to the foolish virgins, who had suffered their lamps to go out, for want of faith and watchfulness.

BLAIR in his remarks on such unhappy latter ends, and his description of the terrors of death to thoughtless men, is truly frightful, but I wish it may not be fearfully true.—He says:

"How shocking must thy summons be, O Death!
To him that is at ease in his possessions!
Who counting on long years of pleasure here,
Is quite unfurnished for the world to come!
In that dread moment, how the frantic soul
Raves round the walls of her clay tenement;
Runs to each avenue, and shrieks for help;
But shrieks in vain! How wishfully she looks
On all she's leaving, now no longer hers!
A little longer; yet a little longer;

O might she stay to wash away her stains;
And fit her for her passage! Mournful sight!
Her very eyes weep blood; and ev'ry groan
She heaves is big with horror. But the foe,
Like a staunch murd'rer, steady to his purpose,
Pursues her close, thro' ev'ry lane of life;
Nor misses once the track: but presses on,
Till, forc'd at last to the tremendous verge,
At once she sinks to everlasting ruin."

Observe this denouncement is against him only who is at ease in his possessions, (the man who does not consider sufficiently the importance of a future state, what the world calls the decent man, but not the sufficiently considerate man) what therefore is to become of the infidel, the voluptuary, or the notoriously wicked man, if such as these do not escape perdition:

This dreadful picture is somewhat alleviated by Dr. YOUNG's description of the death of a good man; (a strong incentive to virtue)

" The chamber where the good man meets his fate,
Is privileg'd beyond the common walk
Of virtuous life, quite in the verge of heav'n.
Fly, ye profane! if not, draw near with awe,
Receive the blessing, and adore the chance,
That threw in this Bethesda your disease:
If unrestor'd by this, despair your cure.

For, here, resistless demonstration dwells;
A death-bed's a detector of the heart.
Here tir'd dissimulation drops her mask,
Thro' life's grimace, that mistress of the scene!
Here real, and apparent, are the same.
You see the man; you see his hold on heav'n,
If sound his virtue, as Philander's sound.
Heav'n waits not the last moment; owns her friends
On this side death; and points them out to men;
A lecture, silent, but of sov'reign pow'r!
To vice, confusion; and to virtue, peace.
Whatever farce the boastful hero plays,
Virtue alone has majesty in death;
And greater still, the more the tyraut frowns."

On the 29th. March, we embarked on board the Anacreon transport, bound to the Island of Malta. And on the 7th. of April, weighed anchor and sailed with a favourable wind. In about four hours we lost sight of Alexandria, and enjoyed the pleasing hope of once more visiting our native land. The learned seem to feel regret when they are obliged to quit Egypt, and the antiquarian would dwell for ever among the tombs of the Pharoh's, and the ruins of temples and palaces: for my part, I beheld with wonder and delight, the stupendous monuments of ancient grandeur; I stood with pleasure on the soil which re-called to my thought so many passages of sacred history, and formed so

prominent a feature in it; but, when the word was given to return home, to England! and leave this shore, now pregnant with disease, and a prey to hordes of barbarians; tombs, temples, palaces, all appeared to dwindle into insignificance, and my mind was filled with ideas of revisiting a shore, where Health and Plenty walk hand in hand, and where the sweetest gifts of nature are within the reach of the meanest individual.

"Active in indolence abroad we roam,
In quest of happiness, which dwells at home;
With vain pursuits fatigu'd, at length we find,
No place like England which we left behind."

On the 14th. we passed the Island of *Candia*, formerly *Crete*, said by the ancients to be the birth place of Jupiter. It once gave laws to all *Greece*, and was amazingly populous. Now it appears little better than a Desert; the famous Mount Ida having lost every trace of the beauty it was once said to possess, and the hundred Cretan Cities being reduced to heaps of rubbish; it is, however, still fertile in many parts, and produces corn, wine, oil silk, cotton, and excellent honey. The inhabitants are chiefly Greeks, who, in general, bear a good character. The city of *Candia* or *Mutium*, the

capital, is situated on a bay of the sea, about the middle of the north side of the Island, and was once a good harbour, but choaked up at present. The siege of this city by the Turks, lasted twenty-four years. The Turks invaded it in the beginning of the year 1645, and the garrison held out to the latter end of September, 1669, after having sustained no less than fifty-six dreadful assaults, and at last capitulated on honourable terms. The Venetians lost upwards of eighty thousand men in the defence of the place, and the Turks above a hundred and eighty thousand during the siege. This Island still remains in possession of the Turks, and is 300 miles in length and 50 in breadth, situated on the south of the Archipelago, 500 miles S. W. of Constantinople, in Lon. 25. 18. E., Lat. 35. 18, N. On the 15th. we had some very heavy rains, with every indication of stormy weather. Next day it blew so hard a-head, as to drive us back nearly to *Candia*, and rendered our situation on board, (filled as we were with troops) exceedingly uncomfortable. The short motion of the sea in this part is far more disagreeable than that of the Atlantic. Many of our shipmates had been nearly deprived of sight in Egypt, and the rolling of the

vessel was to them a very great inconvenience, for they were constantly running foul of each other, and incommoding the rest of the passengers, consisting of three or four hundred persons. But we were steering homeward, and that reflection made us bear our sufferings with cheerfulness.

> "England, with all thy faults, I love thee still:
> My Country! and while yet a nook is left,
> Where English minds and manners may be found,
> Shall be constrained to love thee."

On the 20th. a number of small birds, resembling the brown linnet of England, flew on board, and convinced us we were not far from the place of our destination. Next day we made the Island of *Malta;* but the wind being unfavourable, we could not enter the port till the day after, when we sailed into Quarantine Bay, and cast anchor. It is impossible to say, whether I was more astonished or pleased on entering this harbour, so well defended by nature and art, and affording such ample security to ships of any dimensions. The entrance from the sea is narrow, but perfectly safe with a pilot on board; the shore being bold and even. When a ship is once in, she remains as safe from

wind and sea as if she were in dock; and it is very common to lash even men of war alongside the quays. The tide here is scarcely discernable, so that vessels are never left dry as they are in our harbours; and from the offing, the ships appear as if they were at anchor in the middle of the town. On the 25th. we disembarked, to perform quarantine at the Lazaretto, a spacious building with open courts, set apart for that purpose. This is a very necessary precaution to guard against the plague, one of the severest scourges of the human race. On the 16th. of May, after performing a quarantine of twenty-one days, we crossed the harbour, and landed in the town of *La Valetta*, the capital of the island. We here found plenty of every thing, very cheap: although we had entertained a very different opinion whilst we remained in the Lazaretto. The bum-boat people, taking advantage of our confinement, sold us fresh provisions at a very exorbitant price; but I was not suprised at this, when I reflected on the impositions practised on the poor sailors and soldiers, on board ships, even in British harbours. It was at first a matter of surprise to me, how provisions, (particularly vegetables) should be found here in such abund-

ance, when the island appeared little better than a solid rock. My astonishment, however, ceased, when they informed me, that immense quantities of earth had been transported here from Sicily, at different times, that gave the advantage of fruitfulness to a place, where nature had seemed to deny them; besides, there is a constant supply of excellent corn, bread, meat, poultry, eggs, butter, milk, &c. from the same place, brought in small boats, which run over with a fair wind, in five or six hours, being about sixty miles distant. The Island lies between Africa and Sicily, and is twenty miles long and twelve broad. It formerly belonged to the Emperor Charles Vth. who gave it to the Grand Master of the Order of St. John, of Jerusalem, when he was driven by the Turks from *Rhodes.* In 1566, it was attacked by the Turks, who were obliged to abandon it with the loss of 30,000 men; from which time the Maltese have been at continual war with the *Porte.* Since the French seized it, the Knights have been dispersed; and it is a matter of doubt whether they will ever be restored again. The ancient inhabitants were Arabs, and the common people speak a kind of Arabic to this day; but Italian is the language in general used here. The

total population of Malta is supposed to be about 90,000. *La Valetta*, is one of the strongest places, both by nature and art, in the world; and appears to be impregnable, were it properly defended. If the French had not been assisted by a powerful party within the walls, which distracted the councils and palsied the efforts of the Grand Master, it would have been impossible for them to have prevailed; and if the French garrison could have received provisions, all our attempts to wrest it from them might, in all probability, have proved abortive. I was astonished, when we were entering the port, to find batteries with artillery, frowning upon us in every direction; and which, if well served, are certainly sufficient to annihilate any maratime force that it would be possible to bring against them. Were the land side of the town as well protected as the harbour, not all the troops in the world, I verily believe, would be able to take *La Valetta* by assault. One of the most beautiful structures in this place is the Church of St. John the Baptist, which contains many exquisite paintings and other curiosities; the floor is composed of marble, curiously arranged in Mosaic work, in a great variety of shapes, and containing inscriptions to commemorate the persons

buried beneath. I, one day, met with a boy in the church, who spoke English, by him I was shewn the most curious objects: The first I noticed was the image of death, amazingly well sculptured in coloured marble; the next object that arrested my attention was a magnificent monument, erected in memory of a Captain of a Row Galley, who had particularly distinguished himself: I was then conducted to another part of the church, were there was a finely wrought statue of St. John, in white marble, with his head in a charger; and near it was carved in the same coloured stone, a beautiful and affecting representation of the crucifixion of our blessed Saviour, as large as life: Opposite to this, I observed an admirable painting of the Nativity, by a Greek master, whose name I could not ascertain; and further on, there is a grand monument erected over one of the Grand Masters. Within a few yards of this, is a scull, said to have been that of Saint Lawrence, set with precious stones, and kept closely shut up in a glass case, curiously defended with wire; near which is a full length painting, that represents the Saint suffering martyrdom by being roasted alive. Not far from this stands two figures representing Justice and Charity, the former

suspending a pair of scales, and the latter embracing an orphan in her arms, both in polished white marble: The exquisite workmanship of that representing Charity, struck my attention most forcibly, indeed I never before conceived that art could so far imitate nature in the expression of benevolence. I was now called off by my conductor to view the rails which surround the altar; he asked me if I knew what metal they were composed of? I answered iron: But what was my surprise, when he shewed me a particular part, where the paint had been scraped off, and they proved to be of solid silver. "This deception," said the boy, "was made use of when the French came amongst us, to prevent their carrying this precious metal off; for they robbed this sanctuary of jewels, golden candlesticks, &c., to the amount of a million of livres; and most likely would have left us nothing, if they had not been prevented by the English from taking what they liked." The altar strikes the observer with admiration from its magnificent appearance. In another part of the church there is a representation in polished white marble, as large as life, of Saint John, baptizing our Saviour in the river Jordan; a little farther on, is, a

sublime painting of Saint Michael; but I was much struck with a piece representing the shipwreck of Saint Paul, and another of his conversion. There are still many gold and silver candlesticks, with other splendid ornaments; and the walls are decorated with Mosaic work of a curious nature. The roof is very high, surmounted by a dome elegantly painted within. Under the church there is an extensive vault, where I saw the tomb of the personage at whose expence the church was first built. Here also were contained many other curiosities. Same day I went to visit Saint Paul's Church, within the town, and saw some fine paintings, but much inferior to those in Saint John's. I was also shewn the palace of the Grand Master, (now the seat of government) a magnificent building, and elegantly furnished. One of the Grand Masters erected an aqueduct here at his own expense, which is a grand work, composed of many thousand arches; it conveys water into the city from a spring at a considerable distance. Notwithstanding the hatred of the Maltese to the Mahometan religion, I was pleased to find them liberal enough to suffer the captive Turks to have a Mosque, where they might exercise their religious duties freely. Sir Ralph

Abercromby's remains are deposited on a bastion at the north east part of the works; over which is laid a black marble tomb-stone, with a Latin inscription, whereof the following is a translation:

"*In perpetuation of the memory of Sir Ralph Abercromby, a native of Scotland, Knight of the Bath. A man, for his probity, consummate courage, military talents, and magnanimity of mind, highly distinguished. He served in the various wars of America and Holland; and by George the third, King of Great Britain, with the general approbation of his subjects, was appointed Commander in Chief of the British army in the Mediterranean Sea. Thence, in executing an expedition to Egypt, though every where opposed by the flower of the French troops, he, in one vigorous attack, obtained and kept possession of the entire coast of Egypt, and afterwards successfully defeated their endeavours to oppose him, until the British and French armies engaging in a sanguinary contest near Alexandria, March* 21, 1801, *he received a mortal wound in his thigh, while fighting in the foremast ranks, and in the very centre of victory; of which wound he expired, to the extreme regret of all who knew him,*

on the 28th. of the same month, in the 68th. year of his age. As a Commander, he was eminently skilled in the art of war, and his judgment in projecting, with his bravery in executing his measures, and for his unsullied honour in every thing attached to the glory of his country; his loss was equally afflicting both to the sovereign and the subjects of Great Britain. The ashes of this well-deserving and excellent officer, being conveyed hither in public funeral, on the 29th. day of April, in the same year. Henry Pigot, appointed commander in chief of the British troops stationed in this Island, has obsequiously ordered this stone to be raised over his remains."

The native Maltese, who are the lowest class of inhabitants, are active and cheerful, of a swarthy complexion, and low stature, not exceeding, upon an average, five feet six or seven inches. They seem industrious and honest; but are prone to anger and revenge like the Italians. In the course of the war great numbers entered into the British navy, by permission of the Grand Master, and were made very useful. The women dress generally in black silk, which is here very cheap, with head dresses sometimes composed of artificial flowers, and at

other times *bandeaus*, or caps; but I observed none very beautiful. Malta is supposed to be the only place in the world where that system of false honour, denominated duelling, is permitted by law. This permission is thought to be in consequence of a desire to keep up the ancient spirit of chivalry among the people. A particular street is allotted for the express purpose of deciding these quarrels, where the combatants meet; and should one or both fall in the contest, a cross or monument is erected to their memory. There are several of these obelisks to be seen, and what is very singular, whenever one or both of the disputants are ordered to desist, either by a woman, priest, or knight, they immediately decline the combat, and withdraw, after having their differences amicably settled by those mediators on the spot.

The coin in circulation at Malta are doubloons, dollars, ducats, and small copper pieces which pass for eightpence each, though not so valuable in reality as an English halfpenny; they have besides a very thin kind of money called *Bayocs*, five of which are worth a halfpenny. On the 19th. a party of us hired a carriage to proceed to *Civita Vecchia*,

the most ancient city of the island, situated on a hill, and well fortified; it is about seven English miles from *La Valetta*, which we travelled in a very short time; our driver generally running by the side of the horses, but when he grew tired, occasionally leaped upon the shafts. The first object that struck our attention at *Civita Vecchia*, was a Church dedicated to St. Paul the Apostle, which is very magnificent, but the building is not so spacious as St. John's, at *La Valetta*. I particularly noticed a painting of Daniel in the Lion's den, an admirable piece, glowing in colours almost as natural as the living objects. We next proceeded to St. Paul's cave, over which is erected a place of devotion. We were conducted into it by a Romish priest, who presented each of us with a lighted wax taper. The cave is about seven yards long and four broad, in the centre of which stands a figure of the Apostle cut in white marble. It is said, this is the place where that Apostle was confined after his shipwreck on his way from *Cesarea* to *Rome*. Near the cave is another figure of Saint Paul, with a viper in his hand, which is said to stand on the very spot where he shook that venomous reptile off. Tradition says, he pronounced at that time a curse

on these reptiles, and the Maltese affirm, that ever since that period there has been none seen in the island. Be this as it may, however it is certain, that snakes have been brought over from Sicily, and died soon after they were landed. We were then shewed the catacombs, subterranean places for the burial of the dead: They are cut in the solid rock, and are said to extend fifteen miles under ground. We were led a considerable distance into them by our guide, without whom, I think, we should not have found our way out, there being so many windings. After exploring these subterraneous caves we refreshed ourselves and returned to *La Valetta*. There are twenty-one towns on this island, and a number of small hamlets and country seats, the latter being extremely pleasant. The streets of *La Valetta*, are paved with white free-stone, the colour and dust of which prove very hurtful to the eyes. No part of the town is level, as it is built on the side and top of an eminence; but the quay affords a very delightful promenade; where ships of most nations are to be seen so close to the shore, that it would be possible to jump on board. If we may judge from the constant ringing of the church bells, the Roman Catholic religion is more strictly

observed here than in any other place. Effigies of saints are exposed at all corners of the streets, and many ridiculous ceremonies often take place which we are complete strangers to in this country. When the French Expedition, with Bonaparte on board, destined for the invasion of Egypt, arrived off here, he was convinced that the capture of Malta would greatly forward the success of his designs; accordingly he sent to require the Grand Master to allow the ships to take water at the different ports of the Island. This request the Grand Master however refused, and Bonaparte was necessitated to have recourse to force. After some resistance the French landed, and whether by the treachery of the garrison, or the impetuosity of the enemy, the town of Malta, which from its regular fortifications, had been deemed impregnable, surrendered ingloriously after a feeble defence of about ten days! This event was so peculiarly unfortunate, that, if Malta had resisted *three days* more, Admiral Nelson would have overtaken the French fleet, and in all probability the whole would have been destroyed and Bonaparte taken or killed! "How much it is to be regretted," says a late military writer, "that the garrison of Malta did not hold out a little

longer." What torrents of blood have flowed in consequence of their pusillanimity! Had they opposed that foe to mankind but three days longer, the brave Nelson would have stopped his career; thousands of Egyptians, men, women, and innocent babes, would be still alive; thousands of Turks would not have been massacred; the fields of Marengo would not be deluged with blood; and the immortal Abercromby would still command his victorious army: Europe would be at peace, and France restored to tranquillity and happiness. How much does an event, apparently trivial, influence the destiny of great and powerful nations! Who would have supposed, that the soldiers who composed the garrison of Malta, were for a few days the arbiters of Europe!

The excesses committed by the French troops when in possession of Malta, were shocking and disgraceful. Contributions of money and other necessaries for the use of the army, were levied on the unfortunate inhabitants, and when they could exact no more, Bonaparte sacreligiously ordered the gold and silver ornaments and plate belonging to the churches

to be seized and melted down into ingots!! To exhibit further the tyranny of this scourge to mankind, previous to his leaving Malta, he issued an order to the following effect: — Art. 5. "All the Greeks of the Island of Malta and Gozo, and those of the departments of *Ithaca*, *Corcyra*, and of the *Egean Sea*, who shall maintain any connexion whatever with Russia, *shall be put to death!!!*" —— Art. 6. "All the Greek vessels which sail under Russian colours, if they fall into the hands of the French, *shall be sent to the bottom!!!*"—These two articles extracted from Bonaparte's orders, may serve to shew that it is out of the power of that bloodthirsty tyrant to treat, with common feelings of humanity, even the most harmless inhabitants of the countries which he conquers. It was the peculiar fate of the inhabitants of Malta to be subjected to still greater privations. After the enemy's departure for Egypt, he ordered a garrison to be placed in all the principal forts of the Island, with strict injunctions, (if attacked) to hold out to the last extremity. When the British Fleet appeared before the place, a rigorous blockade was immediately commenced. Several of the enemy's frigates attempted to throw supplies into the garrison, but

owing to the vigilance of our seamen they were cut off. Seeing all hopes of relief frustrated, and literally perishing with want, the French were compelled to surrender, and the British took immediate possession of the place.—I could have passed a short time here very agreeably, had not the desire of reaching England ever been uppermost in my thoughts. We were civilly treated by the people, and could be very comfortable at inns and coffee-houses, at a moderate expence.

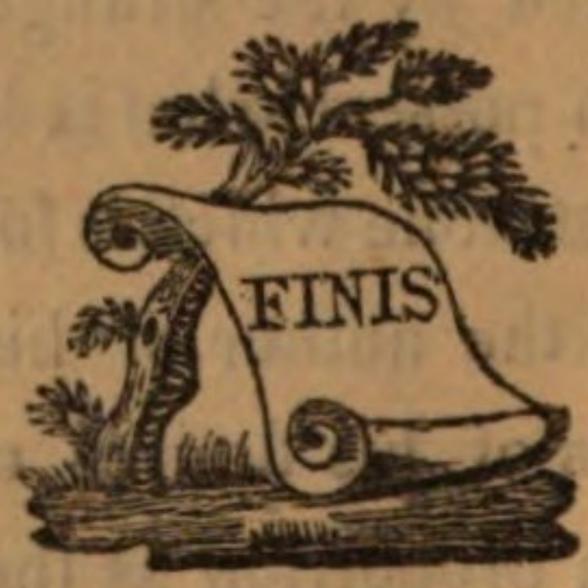
On the 25th of May, we embarked on board the Spring transport, and on the 27th. we weighed anchor and sailed, in company with seven other transports, although the wind was nearly a-head. On the 29th. we were becalmed near the island of Sicily, in sight of Mount Ætna. On the 2d. of June, we hove in sight of the island of Sardinia, which appeared to be at a considerable distance. Next day we had a favourable breeze; but in the afternoon it again fell calm, when a fine turtle dove flew on board. On the 4th. still calm, we caught two turtles sleeping on the surface of the water. This was done by launching one of our boats and rowing softly towards them; which must be done

with great caution, for if they awake they instantly dive out of reach. During the calm we were dreadfully plagued with flies, which stung almost as bad as wasps. In the evening, the weather became squally, and the next morning the wind shifted right a-head; which was succeeded by favourable breezes, on the 6th. we discovered the high land of *Yvica*. Nothing particular occurred in our passage down the Mediterranean. On the 15th. we anchored in Gibralter Bay, recruited our stock of fresh provisions, and after some delay from contrary winds, sailed on the 20th. and ran through the gut with a fair wind. As a circumstantial account of what winds we had; how many sail we saw on the passage; where we experienced heavy swells, or calms; how often we hove the lead; and how much our hearts palpitated at the sight of our long lost native land, might be tedious to my readers. I shall therefore only remark, that on the 9th. July, we anchored at Spithead, but could have no communication with the shore till the 15th. when we disembarked at Porchester, about five miles from Portsmouth, in tolerable health and excellent spirits. In the course of our passage from Malta, several of our detachment (for a short period) lost the use

of their limbs, probably from the sudden change of climate. It is impossible to conceive how much I felt the difference of temperature on our first making the British channel. I now wrote two letters to my father, from whom I received no answer. He, alas! was no more! My spirits were again depressed; and I felt forcibly the justness of the remark, that there is no permanent happiness on this side of the grave. I found circumstances so much altered at home, that the dreams of happiness I had enjoyed during my peregrinations, of being able to entertain and comfort, by my attention, the years of a kind and affectionate parent, vanished from my sight, and left a vacuum in my mind which rendered every other object uninteresting. The friends I had left, wished me to leave the army, which advice I afterwards followed. Friendship still afforded me an asylum, and I cannot avoid contemplating with heartfelt gratitude the beneficence of a kind Providence who is the author of every good and perfect gift, and who copiously confers his favours, (and though unseen) shelters the injudicious and helpless traveller from striking on those rocks, which otherwise might prove fatal to his happiness and prosperity. Thus have I given a short and imperfect

account of the objects by which my attention has been principally engaged. I contemplate the chequered scenes of my past life, interspersed as it has been with disappointments, and endeavour to draw from them conclusions, by which society and myself may be benefited. In all countries I have observed that the propensities of human nature are nearly the same; and that degrees of happiness are chiefly felt by comparison. The wretched Hottentot, wallowing in his filth, knew not the want of superfluities, till the example of others made him wish to possess them; and the sacreligious Arab, would have suffered the embalmed corps of the ancient inhabitants of Egypt to have slept in peace, had not his cupidity been awakened by the strange desires of wandering *virtuosi*, to possess what is less valuable even than the commonest stone which is found in the quarry. Man is certainly the author of his own wants, he attains the objects of his desires at the expence of thousands; and in proportion as the ambitious climb the giddy heights of honour and riches, the humble classes fall into the abyss of poverty and dependence, whilst the middle classes of society, happy within their own family circles, the monarchs of their own households and firesides, neither subject

to the cares and anxieties of the affluent, nor depressed, or distressed with the privations of the poor, may be truly considered to possess the *summum bonum* of happiness; and with the assistance of authors of intelligence and veracity, may trace the world round, and gain at home without the cares, risks, and expences of actual travelling, every necessary information, calculated to please the fancy, or to improve the mind.



APPENDIX

TO

VOYAGE TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

TRAVELS in EGYPT, &c.

BEING

The Natural History,

INTERSPERSED WITH ANECDOTES

And Recitals of extraordinary Strength, Courage,
Enterprize, Docility and Intellect

IN THE WILD ANIMALS

OF

These extensive Regions.

By RICHARD RENSHAW.

ELEPHANT.

THE Wild Animals of the Cape of Good Hope, (being a part of the main land of Africa) are of course numerous and terrific; but they do not much trouble those parts of the coast, in particular, where the British have settlements: In the interior, amongst the forests with which this country abounds, are to be found the Elephant, the Rhinoceros, Tiger, Wolf, and many others of the smaller descriptions of animals. The Elephant is considered the largest animal in the creation. He grows to be fifteen feet high, and weighs several tons: He has no front teeth in either jaw, and from the upper jaw, proceed two long and strong tusks, which in a state of nature are used in tearing up trees for food, and as weapons of defence against his enemies. He has a long and cartilaginous trunk, which is capable of laying hold of the most minute substances; and his body is very thinly covered with hair. Of all quadrupeds he is the strongest, as well as the largest, and yet in a state of nature he is neither fierce nor formidable: Mild, peaceful, and brave he never abuses his power or strength, and

only uses it for his own protection. In his native deserts he is seldom seen alone, but appears a social, friendly creature. The oldest of the company conducts the band, and the next in seniority brings up the rear. The young, the weak, and the sickly, fall into the centre, while the females carry their young, and keep them from falling by means of their trunks. Nothing can be more formidable than a drove of Elephants in an African forest; every thing seems to fall before them, they bear down the branches of trees as they go along, on which they feed; and if unfortunately they enter an inclosure, they lay waste all the labours of the husbandman. They delight to live near rivers, and in deep vales, near shady forests, being equally distressed by the extremes of heat and cold. They disturb water before they drink it, and often fill their trunk with it, and divert themselves by spurting it out like a fountain. They are fond of immersing in water, and will swim for amusement many leagues. Their food is vegetable, and they loath all kind of animal diet. With a very aukward appearance, the Elephant possesses all the senses in great perfection: He has very small eyes, but they are full of expression and sensibility: His ears are extremely large, and wonderfully acute in their office; and he is so fond of music,

that he will learn to beat time, and even join his voice to the sound of the drum and trumpet. His smelling is exquisite, and he is fond of the odour of flowers, and odiriferous plants, but it is the sense of touching that this animal excels in, even man himself. The organ of this sense is the trunk, and which serves all the purposes of a hand; It is capable of being moved in every direction, can be lengthened, shortened, bent, or straightened, so as to embrace any thing it is applied to, and yet is so strong, that nothing can be forced from its grasp. Through this trunk the animal breathes, drinks and smells: By means of this he can take a pin from the ground, untie a knot of a rope, unlock or unlatch a door, and even write with a pen. The two tusks of ivory proceeding from the upper jaw sometimes grow to be six feet long, and in old age become a great incumbrance; they are merely weapons of defence. The hide of the Elephant is not covered with hair as other animals are, but is nearly bare, a few bristles growing only here and there in the scars and wrinkles of his body. They have various modes of taking them alive, such as seducing them with tame females, entrapping them in pits, tramelling them with ropes, and driving them to inclosures, &c.

Many surprising things are told of this animal, a few of which we will relate:

A female Elephant, belonging to a gentleman at Calcutta, in the East Indies, broke loose from the keeper, and regained the wood. The excuses the keeper made were not admitted; he was suspected of having sold her, and his wife and family were therefore sold for slaves, and himself condemned to work on the roads: about twelve years aftewards, this man was ordered into the country to assist in catching wild Elephants, and he fancied he saw the long lost creature, in a group that was before him: he was determined to go up to it, though the danger was considered imminent: He approached the animal, she knew him, and giving three salutes by waving her trunk in the air, she knelt down and received him on her back: she afterwards assisted in decoying the other Elephants, and brought with her three young ones produced during her stay in the wood. The keeper recovered his character, his family were restored, and as a recompence for his sufferings, and his intrepidity, had an annuity settled on him for life. This Elephant was afterwards in the possession of Governor Hastings. The Elephant once tamed, is the most gentle and obedient

of all animals; he soon conceives an attachment for the person who attends him, obeys him, and seems to anticipate his desires, learns signs, and sounds of the voice, and perfectly distinguishes betwixt the tones of anger, and approbation: he is seldom deceived in his master's voice; receives his orders with attention, and executes them with prudence, eagerly, but without precipitation. All his actions, like his magnitude, are grave, majestic, and secure. He is fond of fine harness and trappings, and will draw chariots, cannon, or shipping, with strength, perseverance, and pleasure; provided he is not beaten without a cause, and his master seems grateful for his exertions; generally a word is sufficient to make him go on, and he frequently becomes so attached to his keeper, as to obey no other, and has been known to die with grief, when in a fit of madness he has killed his conductor. The strength of the Elephant is equal to his bulk: he can draw a load that six horses cannot remove, can carry upon his back four thousand weight, and support on his tusks alone near a thousand. He is very swift of foot; his ordinary pace is as fast as an easy trot, and when pushed can go as fast as a horse can gallop, and can travel fifty miles a day, and when hard pressed a hundred. In some parts of India they are made to execute

criminals, which they do by a stroke of the trunk, or by trampling to death with their ponderous feet. They have likewise been used in the launching of ships, and a tale is told of one being reprimanded for not using his utmost efforts, when he laid it so much to heart, that he redoubled his exertions, fractured his skull, and died on the spot. At Delhi, an Elephant put his trunk into a Tailors' shop, when one of them pricked him with his needle, which the Elephant at the time took no notice of, but he soon returned with his trunk charged with dirty water, which he spurted on the Tailors, to their great discomfiture and his amusement. At the Cape of Good Hope, three brothers, Dutchmen, had made a large fortune by hunting the Elephant for his teeth, with which they were going to retire to their native country, but resolved before they went to have a chase, unhappily, one of their horses fell, and flung his rider, when the enraged beast immediately seized him, threw him up in the air, and received him on his tusks as he fell, and then held out the impaled wretch, writhing in agony, with an aspect of revenge, and insult, to the other brothers. In danger, they forget all regard to their own safety; and when wounded, will attend to be dressed by the surgeon, with all the patience and gratitude that can be imagi-

ned. The natives of Indostan leave their children in the care of Elephants, whilst they go about their business to collect food, &c. and they protect and defend them with the care of a parent. Old Elephants have held young ones down when wounded to be dressed by the surgeon; and they have been employed to protect children when sleeping, rock the cradle, &c. they will shed tears, and express both joy and sorrow with the most lively and extraordinary motion.

LION.

The Lion is a strikingly bold, and majestic animal; his large head, and shaggy pendant mane, his strength of limb, and formidable countenance exhibit a picture of terrific grandeur, which words can scarcely describe. His length is from six to eight feet, and his tail, which is terminated by a tuft of blackish hair, is alone about four feet. The general colour is a pale tawny, inclining to white beneath. The Lioness, or female, is smaller, and wants the mane. Lions are found in many parts of Africa and Asia, at the Cape, Mount Atlas, Bilidulgerid, Zaara, Lybia, in Turkey, Persia, and the Indies. In some of the deserts of Africa, where

man has not fixed his habitation, Lions are found in great numbers, and preserve their natural courage and force. Accustomed to measure their strength with every animal they meet, the habit of conquering renders them intrepid and terrible. They boldly face man, and brave the force of his arms, because they know not his power, and wounds rather serve to provoke their rage, than repress their ardour. They are not daunted, even with the opposition of numbers, and a single Lion of the desert, often attacks an entire caravan, and when overpowered, instead of flying, continues to combat, retreating, and still facing the enemy, till he dies. On the contrary, the Lions which inhabit Morocco, or India, from their acquaintance with human power, have lost all their courage, so as to be scared away with a shout, and seldom attack any but unresisting flocks or herds, which even women and children are sufficient to protect. Many anecdotes of the strength, recollection, and magnanimity of the Lion are on record, some few of which we will give. An Englishman, in Morocco, had two whelps given him, which had been stolen from their mother on Mount Atlas; they were a male, and a female, and till the death of the latter were kept together in a garden; after the death of the female, the owner took the Lion into his bed

room, till it grew as tall as a mastiff, and was perfectly tame and gentle. Returning to England, the owner of the Lion gave him to a Marseilles merchant, who presented him to the King of France, from whom he came as a present to James 1st. of England, and for seven years afterwards was kept in the Tower. A servant of the gentleman at Marseilles, who had been used to feed and play with the animal, went by chance into the Tower: the beast recognized him in a moment, and by whineing, and other expressions of anxiety for him to come near, fully exhibited his joy at meeting with an old friend: the man, equally rejoiced, requested the keeper to open the grate, and he went in: the Lion fawned upon him like a dog, licked his hands, and face, and skipped, and tumbled about, to the astonishment of all who saw him: when the man left him, he bellowed aloud, and shook his den in an ecstasy of sorrow and rage; and for four days refused to take any food whatever. Two Lions, male and female, in the menagerie at Paris, were so attached to their keeper, that when he was ill, they were with difficulty persuaded to take any thing from other persons who were put in his place, and whom they menaced with loud and repeated bellowings. The male, sad and solitary, remained from that moment constantly seated at the

end of the cage, and even the company of the female seemed to displease him, and he paid no attention to her. At length the keeper recovered, and surprised the Lion by crawling softly to the cage, and shewed only his face between the bars; the Lion in a moment made a bound, leaped against the bars, patted him with his paws, licked his hands and face, and trembled with pleasure; the female also ran to him, but the Lion drove her back, and seemed angry lest she should snatch any favours from the keeper, and a quarrel was about to take place, when the keeper entered the cage to pacify them: he caress'd them by turns, and was aftewards frequently seen between them: he had so much command over them, that when he wanted them to separate, and retire to different cages, he had only to give the order, and was immediately obeyed; either in this way, or in any commands he gave them. These animals were of a strong large breed, and were five years and a half old, at the time above-mentioned.

Mr. Hope relates of a Lion belonging to the Duchess of Hamilton, that one day after dinner, the company attended her Grace to see her Lion fed, that she had in the court. While we were admiring his fierceness, (says he) and teasing him with sticks

to make him abandon his prey, and fly at us, the porter came and informed the Duchess, that a serjeant with some recruits at the gate, begged to see the Lion; they were accordingly admitted at the moment the Lion was growling over his prey. The serjeant advancing to the cage, called Nero, Nero, poor Nero, dont you know me; the animal instantly turned his head to look at him, then rose up, left his prey, and came wagging his tail to the side of the cage: The man put his hand upon him, and patted him, telling us at the same time, that it was three years since they had seen each other, and that the care of the Lion on his passage from Gibraltar, had been committed to him, and he was happy to see the poor beast shew so much gratitude for his attention. The Lion indeed seemed perfectly pleased, walking to and fro, and rubbing himself against the place where his benefactor stood, licking his hands, &c.

The Lion in a state of nature generally eats as much at one time as serves him two or three days, and his teeth are so strong, that he masticates and swallows the whole carcass of whatever he attacks, though he can do without eating a considerable time; it is not so with his drinking, his temperament is very hot, and he drinks as often as he meets with

water, lapping it like a cat; he requires in the proportion of about fifteen pounds of raw flesh in a day, and he prefers animals of his own killing; and though he usually feeds upon fresh provision, his breath and his urine are extremely offensive. It is remarkable of the Lion, that when he makes one of his most desperate sallies for his food, if he finds men and quadrupeds in the same field, he only attacks the latter; and never meddles with men, unless they provoke him to engage. He prefers the flesh of camels to any other food, and is fond of young elephants, which he attacks before their trunks are grown, and makes an easy prey of them, unless surprised by the old ones. The Lioness brings forth in spring, and is supposed to go with young six months, and never produces more than two at a time; they are at first the size of a pug dog, suck twelve months, and gain their full size and vigour in about five years. Buffon, and many other naturalists say, they live but to about twenty years, but in opposition to this assertion, the Great Lion, called Pompey, which died in the Tower of London, in 1760, was known to have been there above seventy years; and one lately died there, which was brought from the river Gambia, that was sixty-three years old; it is therefore very probable, that in his native forests, his

age exceeds even that of man. In this animal all the passions are in excess, even those of the most gentle kind, but particularly the attachment of the female to her young. The Lioness, though naturally less strong, less courageous, and less mischievous than the Lion, becomes terrible when she has got young ones to provide for; she then makes her incursions with even more intrepidity than the Lion himself: she throws herself indiscriminately amongst men and other animals, destroys without distinction, loads herself with the spoil, and brings it home, reeking, to her Cubs, whom she accustoms betimes to cruelty and blood. She usually brings forth in the most retired and inaccessible places, and when she fears to have her retreat discovered, often hides her tract by running back her ground, or by brushing it out with her tail. When attacked she will defend her young to the last extremity.

TIGER.

The ancients had a saying, that as the Peacock is the most beautiful among birds, so is the Tiger among quadrupeds. Indeed his beauty can only be conceived by those who have seen him in his native forests, for his lustre is greatly diminished in the

specimens which arrive in this country. To the beauty of his colour, is added an extremely elegant form, much larger indeed than the Leopard, but more slender, more delicate, and is extremely swift and agile; unhappily, however, his disposition is abominably mischievous, and noxious. Buffon says the Tiger possesses all the bad qualities of the Lion, without any of his good ones. To pride, courage, and strength, the Lion joins greatness, clemency, and generosity; but the Tiger is fierce without provocation, and cruel without necessity; and though glutted with slaughter, cóntinues the carnage, inflamed by resistance: it attacks all beasts indiscriminately, and gives no quarter wherever it goes: Happily for the rest of nature, these animals are not numerous, and are chiefly confined to the warmest provinces; though he is found every where, where the Elephant and Rhinoceros inhabit. The largest description of Tiger, (one of which is in the Tower of London) is above three feet and a half high, but although endowed with great powers, he is not so rapacious as the smaller sized ones. It is told of the Tiger, that he will throw a Buffalo, weighing a thousand weight over his shoulder, and run away with it as a fox does with a goose. He likewise frequently attacks the Crocodile, by watching till he

comes to the side of the river to drink, when he strikes his claws into the Crocodile's eyes, who drags him into the water, and not unfrequently they are both drowned. The Tiger may be tamed, and one brought from India, ten months old, was so domesticated, as to admit of every kind of familiarity; it was quite harmless, and playful as a kitten: It slept with the sailors in their hammocks, and would suffer three or four to recline their heads upon it when stretched out on deck; in return for this, it would however now and then steal their meat, when they would beat it, and take it out of its mouth, which it submitted to with the patience of a dog. It would run up and down the ship like a cat, swarm the mast and bowsprit, and perform innumerable tricks. It was taken on board at a month old, and arrived in England before it was twelve months old: It is now in the tower, and has in no instance been guilty of any ill natured or mischievous tricks. A dog has been his companion, many years, of whose company he is very fond, and whenever the dog is absent he is extremely miserable. Any person may touch and stroke him with safety, and one of his old shipmates went into his den, and received the honours of his congratulations, in every way in which he could testify his joy: He however had

not calculated on the difficulties of getting away from him, and it proved necessary to use much stratagem to get them seperated. Unlike a many other animals in a state of nature, he attacks man before any other creature, springing with a terrific roar on his object; but like the Lion, if he misses his prey, he makes off without repeating the attempt.

The Tigress, like the Lioness, produces four or five young at a litter, and when robbed of them braves every danger, and pursues her plunderers even to the gates of buildings, or the edge of the sea; and when her hopes of recovering them are lost, she expresses her agony, by howlings so hideous, as to excite terror wherever they are heard; and when repeated by the echoes of the mountans, in the dead silence of night, exceed in dreadful bellowings any thing that the mind can picture.

LEOPARD.

This animal is about six feet long, including the tail two feet; it is a lively yellow colour, marked on the back and sides with small spots disposed in circles, and placed pretty closely together; its face

and legs are marked with single spots; its breast and belly are covered with longer hairs than the rest of his body, of a whitish colour; the spots on his tail are large and oblong. He inhabits most parts of Africa, and spares neither man nor beast. The negroes take them in pit-falls, covered at the top with slight hurdles, on which is placed some flesh as a bait; when they have killed one they feast on its flesh, which is said to be as white as veal, and very well tasted, and the negresses make beads of its teeth. The skins are brought to Europe, and are reckoned very valuable. The late Sir Ashton Lever had a Leopard, which he kept in a cage, at Leicester House, he had become so tame as to seem highly pleased, and gratified by caresses and attention; purring and rubbing his sides against the cage like a cat. Sir Ashton gave it to the royal managerie in the tower, where a person before acquainted with it, saw it after an interval of more than a year, notwithstanding which, it appeared instantly to recognise him, and began as usual to renew its caresses.

WOLF.

The Wolf from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, is about three feet seven inches long, and about two feet five inches high; his colour is a mixture of black, brown, and grey, extremely rough and hard, but mixed towards the roots with a kind of ash coloured fur. The tail is long and bushy, and he carries it much between his hind legs. His eye balls are of a fiery green, which gives his visage a fierce and formidable air. When pressed with hunger he braves danger, and attacks domestic animals, such as lambs, sheep, and even dogs; when he attacks a sheep-fold, he kills all before him, before he begins to carry away his prey, and in this way he makes dreadful devastation: At last, when his necessities are very urgent, he boldly faces certain destruction, attacks women, children, and sometimes men; he becomes furious by continual agitation, and ends his life in madness. The she Wolf has from five to nine cubs at a litter, which like the pups of a bitch, are blind. Although very voracious, the Wolf if he can get water can support hunger for four or five days, and which he not unfrequently does. He is particularly fond of human flesh, and if powerful enough, would eat no other. He follows armies, and frequently is seen in numbers

on the field after a battle has been fought, where he devours the dead, both them who are uninterred, and those who are slightly covered. Hunting the Wolf is a favourite diversion in some countries, but dogs have a natural repugnance against him; they seldom kill him, but hold him at bay till he is killed by the javlins and cutlasses of the hunters. In the Wolf there is nothing valuable but his skin, which makes a warm and durable fur; his flesh is rejected with abhorrence by all other animals, and no creature will voluntarily eat a Wolf, but a Wolf.

RHINOCEROS.

(*TWO HORNED.*)

This species is considerably different from the one horned Rhinoceros, which is generally found in Asia, and is covered with a skin so hard, as to be almost impenetrable, except in the belly, which is soft, and easily wounded. The two horned Rhinoceros is found in Africa, in the forests behind the Cape, and in Abyssinia, in Egypt; and it differs from the one horned one, in the appearance of its skin, which, instead of vast, and regular marked armour like folds, has merely a very slight wrinkle across the shoulders, and on the hinder parts, with a few fainter

wrinkles on the sides; so that in comparison with the common Rhinoceros, it is almost smooth. Its greatest singularity is two horns on the tip of its nose, one smaller than the other, and which are said to be loose when the animal is in a quiet state, but becomes firm, and immoveable when he is enraged. It is the largest land animal in the creation, except the Elephant, and gives place to none in strength and power: its largest horn grows to three feet long, and eighteen inches in circumference at the base, and with which it will attack the most ferocious animals. Strange things are told of it. Martial says, "It will lift up a bull like a foot-ball." And Bruce relates, "That within the vast forests of Africa, there are trees of a soft, succulent nature, which seem to be destined for the principal food of this animal. For the purpose of gaining the highest branches of these, his upper lip is capable of being lengthened out, so as to increase his power of laying hold with it, in the same manner as the Elephant does with his trunk: With this lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which has most leaves, and them he devours first; he then places his snout as low in the trunk as his horn will enter, and rips up the body of the tree into thin laths, which he embraces with his

monstrous jaws, and twists round, with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery. When pursued and in fear, he runs with amazing swiftness, considering his size and apparent unweildiness, but he always takes to the thickest parts of the wood, where he forces himself forward: The trees that are dead and dry, are broken down as with a cannon shot, whilst those that are green, full of sap and pliable, are bent back by his weight and velocity, and restoring themselves like a green branch to their natural position, when he is passed, they often sweep the incautious hunter with his horse to the ground, or dash them with violence against the surrounding trees. His eyes are small, and he seldom turns his head, therefore sees nothing but what is before him; to this he owes his death; as the hunters get behind him, give him a stroke with a sword across the tendon of the heel, which disables him from flight or resistance, and so leaves him an easy prey. He requires an immense quantity of food and water, but like the Elephant he does not eat flesh, and is fond of rubbing himself and wallowing in mud like a hog. He appears a quiet animal, and if undisturbed, will not attack, but he is dreadful to encounter, except by stratagem. He is a principal

article of food with the inhabitants of Lower Abyssinia, but he is by no means a delicate dish.

CAMEL.

The Camel possesses the various qualities of the the Horse, Cow, and Sheep; and is to the Arabian in a great measure what these useful creatures are to us. Its milk is rich and nourishing, and being mixed with water, makes a wholesome and refreshing beverage, much used by the Arabs in their journies: The flesh of young Camels is also an excellent and wholesome food. The hair or fleece which falls off entirely in the spring, is superior to that of any other domestic animal, and is made into very fine stuffs for clothes, coverlets, prints, and other furniture. Possessed of his Camel, the Arabian has nothing either to want or to fear: In one day he can perform a journey of 150 miles into the Desert, where he is safe from every enemy; for without the aid of this useful animal, no person could pursue him, amidst sandy Deserts, where there is neither verdure to refresh, nor shade to shelter: Where nothing presents itself to the eye, but one uniform void, naked and solitary. The Arabian regards the Camel as the most precious gift of heaven,

by the assistance of which he is enabled to exist in those frightful intervals of nature, which serve him for an asylum, and secure his independence. But it is not to the plundering Arab alone, that the services of this useful quadruped are confined: In Turkey, Persia, Barbary, and Egypt, every article of merchandise is carried by Camels: Merchants and travellers unite themselves and form numerous bodies, called caravans, to prevent the insults of the Arabs. One of these caravans frequently consists of many thousands, the Camels being always more numerous than the men: Each Camel is loaded in proportion to his strength: At the command of their conductors, they lie down on their belly with their legs folded under them, and in this posture receive their burden: As soon as they are loaded they rise of their own accord, and will not suffer any greater weight to be put upon them than they can bear with ease: When overloaded they set up the most piteous cries, until part of the load can be taken off. The large Camels generally carry 1000, or 1200 *lbs.* weight; and the smallest from six to seven hundred: As the rout is often 2000, or 2500 miles, their motions and journies are regulated: They walk only, and in that pace travel 30 or 36 miles a day: Every night they are unloaded, and

allowed to pasture upon such herbage as they can find: Thistles, nettles, wormwood, and other hard and prickly vegetables, which the sandy Deserts of Arabia produce, the Camel often prefers to the more delicate herbage: But the peculiar and distinguishing characteristic of the Camel, is its faculty of abstaining from water for a greater length of time than any other animal, for which nature has made a wonderful provision, in giving it besides four stomachs, which it has in common with other ruminating animals, a fifth bag, serving as a reservoir for water, where it remains without corrupting, or mixing with other aliments. When the animal is pressed with thirst, and has occasion for water to macerate its food, whilst ruminating he makes part of it pass into his stomach, by a simple contraction of certain muscles; by this singular structure, the Camel can take a prodigious quantity of water at one draught, and is enabled to pass several days without drinking: Some say, fifteen days. They can discover water by the smell, at a mile or two distance; and after a long abstinence will hasten to it, long before their drivers know where it lies. The feet of the Camel are peculiarly adapted to the sandy soil on which he treads; on moist, or slippery ground he cannot well support himself, his hind legs being apt to spread

out so wide, as to endanger his being disabled. Many attempts have been made to introduce this serviceable animal into other countries, but as yet none have succeeded: The race seems to be confined to certain districts, where their utility has been known for ages. Though a native of warm climates, the Camel dreads those which are excessively hot: It can neither subsist in the burning heat of the torrid zone, nor in the milder air of the temperate: It seems to be an original native of Arabia, for in that country they are not only more numerous, but thrive better than in any other part of the world. There are two species of this animal, which have been distinguished before all historical record: That which is called the Bactrian Camel, has two bunches on its back, and is found chiefly in Turkey, and the coutries of the Levant: While the Arabian Camel, (or Dromedary) with only one bunch on its back, is common in Arabia, and all the northern parts of Africa, from the Mediterranean Sea to the river Niger, and is infinitely more numerous, and more generally diffused than the Camel: It is also much swifter, and is therefore generally employed on business which requires dispatch. In Arabia they are trained for running matches, and in many places for carrying couriers, who can go above a hundred miles a day

on them, and that for nine or ten days together, over burning Deserts, uninhabitable by any living creature. They require neither whip nor spur to quicken their pace, but go freely, if gently treated, and are much enticed by singing, or the sound of the pipes, which gives them fresh spirits to pursue their journey. They are mild and gentle creatures at all times, except when they are ruting, at that period they are seized with a sort of madness; they eat little, and will sometimes attempt to bite their masters, so that it is not safe to approach them. The Camel arrives at its full strength at the age of six, and lives forty or fifty years. The females are not usually put to labour, but are allowed to pasture and feed at full liberty: Their time of gestation is near twelve months, and they generally bring forth only one at a time.

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BSB Bayerische StaatsBibliothek
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Renshaw, Richard

Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, the Indian Ocean, and up the Red Sea, with travels into Egypt, through the desert Giving an interesting account of the cities of Grand Cairo and Alexandria and an analysis of the religion of Mahomet ... To which is added an app. containing the natural

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